

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

**STORM WATCH ISSUED, CANCELLED**

## Woman nearly drowns on Mañagaha

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A woman nearly drowned while snorkeling on Mañagaha Island on Friday afternoon, about the same time when a tropical storm watch was issued for Saipan, Tinian, Alamanagan, Pagan, and Agrihan.

Tropical Storm 27W, which has been downgraded since Saturday to a tropical depression, is forecasted to pass south of Guam tomorrow, Tuesday.

The strong swell from the distant Super Typhoon Lan, which passed hundreds of miles to the west of the Marianas, plus 27W resulted in strong waves that washed piles

of seaweeds onto portions of the Saipan Beach Road pathway yesterday.

In a Facebook post by the National Weather Service yesterday, it asked: How big were the waves over the Marianas?

"Near Saipan, an automated buoy showed sea height max[ed] out at 30 feet Sunday morning and,

**See WOMAN on Page 4**

» **Piles of seaweed cover portions of Saipan pathway due to strong waves**



A large wave slams into the Saipan Beach Road pathway yesterday morning. Tropical Depression 27W and distant Typhoon Lan triggered dangerous surf in the CNMI and Guam that is expected to last until today, Monday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

### ON CHC ROOM, BOARD HIKE

'Public will be given chance to talk'

By BEA CABRERA  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI community will be given a chance to comment about the increase in board and room rates at the Commonwealth Health Center.

CHCC board chair Lauri Ogunmoro said Friday there will be a time for the public to comment as there is a process and a venue that needs to be followed under the law. In the meantime, the legal-

ity of the rate increase stays.

CHCC counsel Nancy Gottfried pointed out that CHCC was not remiss in its duties in following the process as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act.

She said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has already approved the emergency regulations that provided for the increases. He signed the English translations on Oct. 3 and the indigenous language

**See PUBLIC on Page 4**

## Arrivals up at 18 pct. in September

» **Visitor arrivals up 30 percent in FY 2017**

Visitors arrivals to the Marianas jumped 18 percent in September 2017 compared to September 2016, marking 653,150 total arrivals for fiscal year 2017, a 30-percent increase in arrivals over the

prior fiscal year.

This is the fourth highest

fiscal year arrivals in Marianas history, the record being 726,690 in fiscal year 1997.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 50,848

visitors in September 2017, compared to 43,264 visitors received in September 2016.

"Early this year the Marianas was recognized by the United Nations World Travel Organization as the third fastest growing tourist destination in the world, and favorable

**See ARRIVALS on Page**

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A total of 155 students take part in the first Youth Takeover Day.

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Hong Kong's last remaining stock market is preparing to shut its trading hall.

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#### ASIA

Voters hand Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's right-wing ruling coalition a victory.

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# Local

## PSS cites concerns in defining 'revenue'

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
 erwin\_encinaires@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

The Public School System is against the Legislature reviewing the definition of general revenues as it relates to the public education system of the CNMI, citing "constitutional concerns about its viability."

In a letter to Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) dated May 23, 2017, that was received by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who chairs the House of Representatives Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, PSS said it supports the intent of reviewing the definition of "general revenues" but BOE legal counsels "raised a concern" regarding the Legislature's role in coming up with that definition.

The letter was signed by Board of Education chair Marylou Ada.

"It should be the Judiciary and not the Legislature that should define what the Constitution means," PSS said, adding that giving that role to the Legislature could open the floodgates to future definitions of "general revenues."

"With every legislature and

with every new political motivation, the Constitution and consequently, PSS, would be reinterpreted," the letter adds.

According to Ada, this as "not lawful."

"The Constitution can only be interpreted by a court and, once interpreted, it is final. Doing it through a law will only place PSS in a position where it is at the mercy if every new legislature," she said.

PSS sent the letter to the Legislature as part of its comments on House Bill 20-21, which effectively defines "general rev-

enues" as it relates to PSS.

The bill, introduced by minority leader Ed Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), is still with the House JGO.

The bill states that PSS should be entitled to 25 percent of the CNMI budget prior to any earmarks and sums set aside.

For fiscal year 2018, PSS received over \$36.3 million. This supposedly meets the 25 percent entitlement of PSS but earmarks and sums set aside from the budget were left out of the calculations.

The CNMI government

identified budgetary resources amounting to \$236.7 million for fiscal year 2018, but said that only \$145.2 million is available for appropriation.

If 25 percent of the PSS budget is derived from the untouched CNMI budgetary resources, PSS is owed roughly \$59.2 million.

Villagomez's bill, House Bill 20-21, makes sure that the PSS annual budget would be derived from untouched budgetary resources, or the CNMI budget prior to earmarks or sums set aside.

## Autumn Festival draws hundreds to Sugar King

Despite the predicted bad weather, an intermittently sunny Saturday still managed to draw hundreds to the Sugar King Park in Garapan for the annual Japanese Autumn Festival and Katori Shrine

### RELATED NEWS

See related photos on  
 Page 8

Shrine group.

According to Japanese Consul Kenji Shinoda who attended the ceremony for the first time, the festival showcased

how important the shrine is, honoring not only the shrine that was built

after World War II, but also honors the development accomplished by both the indigenous people and Japanese people before the war.

"This ceremony is not only important to the Japanese

people but also to the Chamorro and Carolinians," said Shinoda.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the Katori Shrine ceremony and the Autumn Festival go hand in hand.

This is the one time each year that we celebrate the Japanese culture," he said.

Apatang said the festival is always exciting to attend because of the cultural dances, the Japanese visitors, and all the Japanese-themed games and dishes. (Kimberly A. Bautista)



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# Man gets 6-month sentence for break in

A man who broke into the bedroom of his former common-law wife with a weapon was sentenced last week to six months in prison.

Danilo Dinong Ibrao was sentenced to two years in prison, all suspended except for

six months.

Ibrao, 51, an apartment maintenance worker, is supposed to begin serving his sentence on Oct. 30, 2017. After that, he will be placed on supervised probation for three years. He was ordered to pay a

\$500 fine, a probation service fee, and to render 200 hours of community service.

Upon his release, he is supposed to be evaluated by the Community Guidance Center for counseling.

He is not allowed any con-

tact with the victim during his probation.

At the sentencing hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the victim fears for her life and is terrified of Ibrao.

Govendo said Ibrao has ex-

pressed no remorse for his acts.

Ibrao was found guilty of disturbing the peace, assault, and criminal mischief last June 9 following a bench trial. He was, however, found not guilty of violating a court's order of protection.

The police did not specify Ibrao's weapon, merely saying that he entered the bedroom with either a machete or a broken part of large hedge clipper.

Chief public defender Douglas W. Hartig was counsel for Ibrao. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



## Field of Heroes raises over \$13K

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Field of Heroes fundraiser netted over \$13,000 that will go to local programs that specialize in assisting veterans, servicemen, and first responders.

At a luncheon hosted by the 2017 We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Organizing Committee over a week ago at Kanoa Resort, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council was presented with a total of \$13,748.48 from the proceeds of the fundraiser.

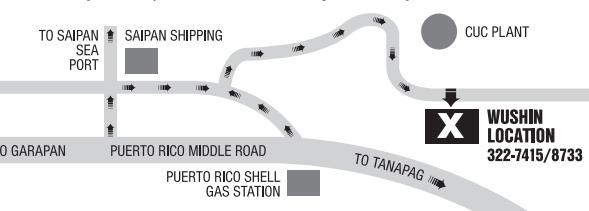
The occasion was also intended to honor the event's sponsors, partners, and committee members in recognition of their efforts to make the event possible. The Field of Heroes fundraiser was an initiative of TanHoldings' charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

According to Carline Sablan, community relations director for TanHoldings and a member of the Field of Heroes Organizing Committee, the money handed over to the council would help fund existing programs that assist military service personnel, veterans, and first responders coping with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Council consultant Eualia Arriola said the funds would sustain what's referred to as Power Breath Meditation workshops on Saipan and bring it to Rota and Tinian.

The workshop was first offered in November last year and assists in decreasing stress, anxiety, anger, and sleep problems in veterans, servicemen, and first responders.

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## WOMAN

*From Page 1*

near Guam, seas went up to 22 feet Sunday morning. Seas have come down since the morning, but are still high, ranging between 10 and 20 feet.

"These swells were generated by distant Super Typhoon Lan, which passed hundreds of miles to the west of the Marianas. This is proof that you don't need a typhoon to pass close to the local area to be dangerous," the post stated.

Saipan residents expressed relief after learning over the weekend that the storm has been downgraded to a tropical depression and its track has shifted away from the island.

As of 4pm yesterday, Tropical Depression 27W was moving south-southeast, packing maximum winds of 35 miles per hour, according to the U.S. National Weather Service.



A strong swell from the distant Super Typhoon Lan, which passed hundreds of miles to the west of the Marianas, plus 27W resulted in waves that washed piles of seaweeds onto portions of the Saipan Beach Road pathway yesterday.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Its center was about 385 miles southeast of Guam, 405 miles south-southeast of Rota, 445 miles south-southeast of Tinian, and 450 miles south-

southeast of Saipan.

There is still much uncertainty on how close Tropical Depression 27W will pass Guam.

## PUBLIC

*From Page 1*

translations on Oct. 4.

"Emergency regulations go into effect as soon as the governor signs it," Gottfried said. "These emergency regulations take effect upon the signature of the governor and are good for 120 days."

"At the same time, we did a notice of intent to promulgate as permanent these rate changes," she added.

Gottfried pointed out that room and board increases are getting the most media attention but Health and Vital Statistics Office fees and Dental Clinic fees also went up.

"In the Oct. 28 *Commonwealth Register*, the emergency regulations and intent to promulgate as permanent the same regulations will be published and there will be a 30-day notice and comment period for the public," she added.

To access the *Commonwealth Register*, go to [cnmilaw.org](#), the Law Revision Commission website.

One can also Google "Commonwealth Register CNMI."

The CHCC emergency regulations can be found on the last registered number 39 or 40 and then you go to the last volume, click 10 for October, and then send your comments via email to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña as the address is provided.

"If anyone wants electronic copies of this, they can call CHCC and ask Janet or Bernie to have the notice of intent to promulgate as permanent regulations emailed to them. If people want to pay for a photocopy, we can do it for them," she added.

The CHCC board still man-



Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Lauri Ogumorro, left, and legal counsel Nancy Gottfried listen to speakers at the CHCC board meeting held last Friday at the Commonwealth Health Center.

BEA CABRERA

aged to entertain two people during the board meeting when they opened the public comment part of the meeting.

A certain Mr. Atalig, a private citizen, disagreed with the rate increases.

"I feel the decision was made certainly without justifiable basis, insufficient facts, and most of all disingenuous. I don't know if there has been any report of study made regarding the need to increase the rates of the hospital. But I am here to express my opinion as the increase was truly arbitrary, capricious, and ultimately will affect the public."

He also said the public and Legislature must be given a chance to review the new rates.

"I strongly feel that the Legislature should also have an input on this. ...They should give us a time to review and comment," he added.

Reading from a letter written by the company's plan administrator Frank J. Campillo, Calvo's Select Care account executive Marcia Chieko Calvo stated that Select Care has several concerns about the rate increases:

■ Normally, the unit costs and utilization vary geographically from one health plan to another depending on the availability and leverage of the insurer to negotiate fees to health providers. In the CNMI, the significant part of the delivery of medical services are concentrated within CHCC and any increase in fees dramatically and directly affect premium rates since there is no leverage to access other providers;

■ Health plans will have to pass the increase to the consumers because with medical trend rising fast in the CNMI, Select Care anticipates an increase in its premium rates;

■ Health plan providers and the community should be given at least three months' notice for any proposed rate increase; and

■ Suggests that CHCC implement more reasonable adjustments so as not to shock the healthcare system.

The letter ended that they look forward to Muña's willingness to work with insurance providers and negotiate fees and terms.

Ogumoro thanked the community for their comments

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said yesterday that police responded to a reported possible drowning incident on Managaha last Friday at 2:22pm.

Tarkong said the victim, a 29-year-old Chinese woman, was transported by Mañagaha staff boat to the Smiling Cove Marina and was met by Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services medics, who then brought the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Tarkong said that Boating Safety Unit investigators met with the victim, who was conscious at CHC.

Police learned that the victim had been snorkeling with her husband when they got separated. The husband found the victim unconscious and was floating face down. He pulled her to shore and, seeing that she still had a heartbeat, did chest compressions on the victim, who coughed out a lot

and encouraged them to go to the *Register*.

Responding to Atalig's question if the hospital does not have money, Ogumorro said, "Yes."

"The hospital needs support from the Legislature—the financial support that we are not getting. So therefore, we as a corporation, have to make ends meet. If we don't get help from the Legislature, you can well imagine our concern," she said.

For the just finished fiscal year, CHCC had asked for a budget of \$22 million—\$16 million for indigent care from the CNMI government and \$6.2 million from the federal government through Medicaid. Instead, the CNMI government allotted a budget of just \$825,299 to CHCC.

Gottfried said the Legislature is not involved in the rulemaking process of CHCC and that the only input by the Legislature are to nominate board members and hold confirmation hearings for these nominees.

"The Legislature is involved to the extent that it was the Legislature that passed the statute which instituted the board."

"The only way to challenge this is through a court of law. The Administrative Procedures Act is a rulemaking process and the Legislature is just not involved," she added.

Atalig mentioned that the Legislature is scheduled to hold an oversight hearing regarding CHCC's rate increases.

According to Ogumoro, the board will have to wait and see what happens.

"We don't know what the outcome will be at this point. But we would welcome an oversight hearing and so we can talk to them about their oversight to us," she added.

of water and regained consciousness.

Tarkong said the victim was treated at the CHC emergency room and admitted for further observation.

As early as 9am on Friday, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios had already advised CNMI residents to prepare for gusty winds, heavy rain showers, and possible flood-

## ARRIVALS

*From Page 1*

international growth and our collective efforts in government, the private sector, and the community have reaped astounding growth for the fiscal year overall," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are grateful to all our partners for believing that, 'Tourism is Everybody's Business,' and we are grateful for the support of the administration.

"However, with the recent passing of Public Law 20-17, which took away nearly a million dollars in MVA funding for the mayors of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, the MVA will be forced to curtail or eliminate some community events and cut some marketing programs planned for our source markets," he added.

Arrivals from Korea increased 30 percent in September to 25,691 visitors. Korea was also the top-performing market for the year, marking 66-percent growth to comprise over half of all visitors.

One national flag carrier and four low-cost carriers—Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air, T'way, and Eastar Jet—provide Incheon-Saipan flight services, while Asiana Airlines and Jeju Air also offer flights between Busan and Saipan.

Arrivals from China grew 15 percent compared to September 2016 to 18,073 visitors. Visitor arrivals from China increased 11 percent in the fiscal year and comprised 35 percent of total visitor arrivals. In September, the MVA attended 2017 ADEX Beijing Ocean Week (Beijing), 2017 PATA Travel Mart (Macau), 2017 China International Tourism Industry Expo (Guangzhou), and 2017 International Islands Tourism Conference Zhoushan & International Islands Tourism Expo (Zhoushan), targeting more specific vertical audience in specific regional markets.

In supporting inaugural flights from Nanjing to Saipan, the MVA is targeting further the market potential in East China.

Arrivals from Japan were at 4,835 visitors in September, 12 percent lower versus September 2016. Arrivals from Japan decreased 16 percent on the year, comprising 8 percent of total visitor arrivals. Delta Air

ing due to anticipated threat of Tropical Depression 27W and to maintain necessary precautionary measures.

At 2:30pm Friday, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency issued a tropical storm watch for Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands as Tropical Depression 27 W strengthened into a tropical storm.

Lines has announced plans to use larger aircraft on its daily flight from Tokyo-Narita beginning mid-November 2017 through March 2018, adding 24 additional daily seats, which should increase overall arrivals from Japan.

While Delta Air Lines and United Airlines are reviewing their Japan-Guam service, Delta is upgrading their service to Saipan. The MVA believes ongoing decline for Japan market is a perceived value issue for travelling to the Marianas. Japanese satisfaction to the Marianas is only around 30 percent, while for Hawaii it is almost 8 percent and Guam is almost 70 percent, indicating room for product/service improvements to satisfy Japanese tourists.

Until the end of September, Delta flight rate was in the range of \$500 to \$600 but was suddenly lowered to \$250 in October. However, travel agency packages are sold based on printed material and cannot be reduced quickly. The MVA hopes to attract more FIT/repeat customers who make their own travel arrangement who take advantage of the lower flight cost.

## Economic highlights

South Korea's consumer prices rose in August at the fastest pace in more than five years, due mainly to a sharp increase in food prices, government data showed. The average US dollar/won exchange rate in September was 1,128.61 won, a slight decrease from the previous rate of 1,133.87 won in August.

Following a slowdown in private non-residential investment in Japan, growth in the second quarter was revised down to 2.5 percent. Despite this revision, it marked the fastest expansion since Q1 2015 and puts the economy on a steady track to recovery. Monthly average rate for USD to yen exchange in September 2017 was 110.65, compared to 109.77 in August 2017.

China's Consumer Price Index of August 2017 saw an overall increase of 1.8 percent year on year. The 2017 National Day holiday week saw the island tour product price index reach 140.9, an increase of 7.8 percent compared to the previous month. Short-distance island destinations such as the Marianas, Bali, and Phuket are the most popular ones. (MVA)

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2017 NISSAN TITAN SV 4WD - 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of \$742.81 or \$342.84 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$53,482.32.

# 155 participate in Youth Takeover Day

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A total of 155 high school students from both public and private schools took part in the first Youth Takeover Day organized by the Youth Affairs Office last Thursday.

In celebration of Youth Empowerment Awareness Month, the students were given the opportunity to experience careers in public service, entrepreneurship, and community service.

A statement from the Office of the Governor quoted Shalaine Borja, Youth Affairs Office special assistant, said that it is vital for students to get real-life opportunities to assist in their growth and development.

One of Thursday's mentors was Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas, who taught his mentees the importance of all programs under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

"I've outlined the importance of the workers that are under DCCA and the people that we help," he said.

Macaranas said that Youth Takeover Day helps students understand the careers that are available to them and what services are provided to the community. "It brings out all the things that we do, and we get to present it to the youth and it gives them an understanding of how the government operates," he added.

Esther Lee and Arvin Dayao, the acting NAP administrators for the day, both said that the experience was educating.

"We got to learn about all the facilities [DCCA] handles like the arts, Child Protective Services, and the elderly," said Dayao.

According to both Dayao and Lee, their one takeaway from the experience is the amount of work that the gov-



Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas, center, poses with his two mentees, Esther Lee, left and Arvin Dayao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ernment puts into helping the community. "I didn't really notice anything they did until now when I actually got to see it for myself," said Dayao.

"What I liked the most is that they care," said Lee.

The students that participated ranged from 9th to 12th grade. They came from Marianas High School, Mount Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, and Marianas Baptist Academy.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who was the acting governor at the time, said the day was a great opportunity for students and young people to take advantage of unique opportunities in a wide array of professions through mentorship by CNMI community leaders.

"My advice to our young people is to never back down from challenges. There are always going to be challenges

in our lives, both personally and professionally. But it's important that we prepare our students and young people to be the next generation of leaders. Solving challenges takes

all of us—young and old. It's important that our youth go out, get a college education, and give back to the community they love. As leaders, we will make sure they will be

prepared to take on any challenge," Palacios said.

Borja said this was the first Youth Takeover Day in the last 10 years and the office hopes to continue this pro-



Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios meets with students as part of CNMI Youth Takeover Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Marriage Encounter Weekend set

The next CNMI Marriage Encounter Weekend will take place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 17-19 2017. It is open to husband and wife couples of all denominations and mixed faiths. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$100. If couples are unable to fund the \$100, M.E. will find sponsors to pay the fee. To participate, email cnmim@gmail.com or call Joe and Linda Muña at 287-2102. Space is limited to the first 15 couples only. (PR)

### Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Oct. 23-24, from 8:30am to 5pm
- Oct. 25, from 8:30am to 8pm
- Oct. 27, from 10:30am to 10pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. (PR)

### Halloween Fun at American Memorial Park

This Halloween, the community is invited to stop by American Memorial Park for some Halloween fun. On Oct. 31, from 3:30pm to 6pm, the park will host trick-or-treating along with a special World War II-theme related costume contest. Prizes will be given for the top three costumes. To participate in the contest, be sure to check-in with staff or volunteers before 6pm.

For more information or if you would like to be a part of the event and give out treats, register with Jovannalyn Mafnas by Oct. 27, 2017 at jmafna@pacifichistoricparks.org or call 234-7207 Ext. 2020. (NPS)

### Renewed PH passports now being released

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, is releasing passports to those who renewed their passports last Sept. 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor, at the top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm is break time). Please bring your old passport and receipt. For more details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

### PH consulate to hold NMI outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI from Nov. 13 to 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm. Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time). For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

### Free 'Riddle of the Exporter' training

The Riddle of the Exporter Training being offered by the CNMI Small Business Development Center is now free. It will take place tomorrow, Oct. 24, from 8am to 5pm, at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room. It will be presented by Elyse Eriksson, MBA, CGPA. This seminar is supported by the CNMI Department of Commerce and Commonwealth Development Authority. To register, contact the SBDC office at (670) 664-3018 or go to <http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events>. (PR)

gram once a year.

It was a group effort of the Youth Affairs Office, the Youth Takeover Day Committee, government and private organizations, and the teachers and counselors of both private and public schools.

A total of 86 mentors committed to CNMI Youth Takeover Day, which took place the whole day of Thursday, from 8am to 4:30pm.

### Scheduled power outage on Oct. 25

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017, from 5am to 10am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely interconnect primary lines of Feeder 2 distribution circuit and the CUC Power Plant 2, in Lower Base.

This is part of an ongoing systems improvement project to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout Saipan.

Areas to be affected include the Puerto Rico Industrial Dr., Petroleum Ln., Commercial Port Av., Harbor Ln. (Smiling Cove Marina, U.S. Army Reserve, Seaport, Shell Marianas, Mobil Oil Marianas, and Saipan Stevodore), and Lower Base Sea Plane Ramp PI. (CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and Saipan Submarine)

The S-3 wastewater lift station will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationl>). (CUC)

## GPS tracking seen to boost use of emergency vehicles

Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Clyde Norita met with representatives from TrackMe! Guam last Friday to discuss Global Positioning System tracking for emergency vehicles in the Commonwealth.

The move is touted as a means for DFEMS to reduce fuel cost, maintenance costs, and operational costs as well as increase efficiency and use of emergency vehicles.

According to Norita, this will allow DFEMS to track its vehicles while providing real-time information on driving patterns such as location, route, speed, fuel usage, sudden braking, and quick acceleration.

The system also has the capability to report on driver information, such as when a vehicle is on idle or if there is any erratic driving behavior.

The technology used to track the vehicles "is supported by wireless technology and is web-based, producing fully-mapped, updated reports," all



of which can be monitored from any computer or mobile device with internet access, said TrackMe! Guam.

Norita says that the service will be purchased for all vehicles on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and DFEMS aims to finalize the procurement process by mid-December, with full operation by end of January 2018.

The system will give DFEMS the ability to identify problem drivers so that corrective measures can be imple-

mented, Norita said.

"It will closely monitor the vehicle for any mechanic issues with quick alerts to prompt needed servicing. In DFEMS-related accidents, the data collected can shed light on the drivers' behavior and the vehicles' operating conditions right before an accident. We see that this would be beneficial and would like to implement GPS for improved efficiency and response," Norita said.

Acting governor Victor

Hocog said that reducing operational costs and improving accountability in emergency response is needed.

"Real-time tracking and monitoring will definitely enable departments to reduce operational costs and improve employee accountability and fleet utilization. This falls in line with improving efficiency, such as the upcoming government conversion to the utility pre-pay program. Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and I fully support reducing

## Nominations sought for UOG Faculty Senate Palulap Award

The University of Guam Faculty Senate's Palulap Medallion Award is now accepting nominations.

The Palulap Award is pre-

sented to a member of the community of Guam who has made extraordinary contributions to the protection and promotion of the fundamental academic principles of the University of Guam, including academic freedom, institutional integrity, institutional and individual autonomy, and

shared academic governance.

The deadline for submission of nominations for this call is 5pm, Feb. 13, 2018. For details visit [www.uog.edu/faculty-senate](http://www.uog.edu/faculty-senate) or call 735-2998. (UOG)

## "Expert Care...Every Day!"



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Ribs, Grilled Squid, Chicken and  
Pork on sticks and a lot more.

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operational costs in the most feasible way possible in all departments," Hocog said.

In operation since 2006, TrackMe! Guam is a Guam-based GPS tracking business that has been the only company to provide necessary tools for businesses in Guam, the CNMI, and the Philippines to help successfully manage their fleets and monitor fuel usage.

TrackMe! Guam boasts that GPS monitoring has helped cut operational costs for GTA TeleGuam LLC by 20 percent and improved the fleet and employee safety of Guam Power Authority, among other agencies. (PR)

## ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

**The Island Smiles Dental Plan now available via your allotment**

- **Low Cost:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan) \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
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**Call 234-4040**  
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 CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AMERICA'S  
**SBDC**  
CNMI

 CDA

COMMONWEALTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY

## FREE Small Business Development Workshops

## PERSONAL FINANCE 101

Thursday, October 26th, 2017

8:30am—10:00am

Location: CDA Board Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, San Jose

Presented by:  
**Marvin Deleon Guerrero,**  
AVP-Saipan Branch Manager



This is a great course for people who want to learn how to manage their personal finances. Topics covered in this course include analyzing spending habits, setting clear financial goals, learning different budgeting options, discussing debt repayment choices, and background on investing options. Each of these topics helps to build a strong foundation for good money management.

Marvin Deleon Guerrero holds 13 years of banking experience. He started his banking career in 2004 at Bank of Saipan then moved on to join BankPacific, Ltd in January 2017. At BankPacific, Marvin serves as the Assistant Vice-President and Saipan Branch Manager. His overall experience in banking include various areas in operations, such as front line and back office work, anti-money laundering compliance, as well as consumer, commercial, and real estate/mortgage lending.

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Limited Seating. Register now at: [pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com](http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com)  
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# Japanese Autumn Festival

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



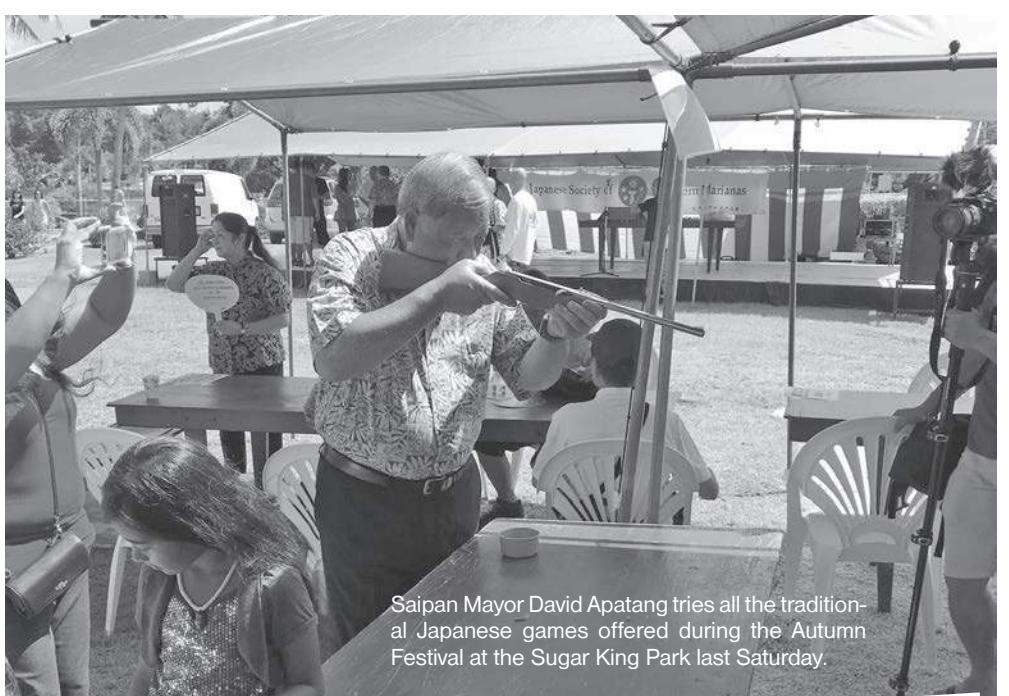
Members of the Japanese community, government representatives, and visiting members of the Katori Shrine group pose for a photo after the Katori shrine ceremony during the annual Japanese Autumn Festival at the Sugar King Park last Saturday.



Saipan Mayor David Apatang, second from left, joins in a saké toast with representatives of the Katori Shrine, the Japanese community, and local leaders to kick off the Japanese Autumn Festival last Saturday at the Sugar King Park.



A traditional Japanese balloon picking game was on display at the annual Japanese Autumn Festival last Saturday at the Sugar King Park.



Saipan Mayor David Apatang tries all the traditional Japanese games offered during the Autumn Festival at the Sugar King Park last Saturday.



A family takes part in a traditional Japanese game that was offered during the annual Japanese Autumn Festival held at the Sugar King Park last Saturday.



The Japanese community offered a duck picking game during the annual Japanese Autumn Festival at the Sugar King Park last Saturday.



Families sit together to enjoy traditional Japanese dishes during the annual Autumn Festival held at the Sugar King Park last Saturday.



Hundreds of individuals came out to celebrate the annual Japanese Autumn Festival at the Sugar King Park last Saturday.

# Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival set

The Marianas Visitors Authority's newest signature event, the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival, has secured a full lineup of feel-good local entertainers for its debut on Nov. 4, 2017.

Marvin Guerrero, James Selepeo, Unrooted, Tom Basa, and Mango Session will add flavor to the festival, which will pair Marianas brews with island-style barbecue and other appetizers beside the Saipan lagoon at Garapan Fishing Base.

Slated to participate are Saipan Brewing Co., which manufactures the only locally brewed beer in the Marianas, as well as six companies distributing craft beers: Pacific Trading Co, MARPAC, Franken Brau, Westco, I Love Saipan, and Samcorp Import.

Joeten Ent., Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and Skywalker Communica-



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
The Marianas Visitors Authority's first Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Nov. 4, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base will feature local entertainers Marvin Guerrero, James Selepeo, Unrooted, Tom Basa, and Mango Session.

tions have all stepped forward as major sponsors of the event.

"The Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival is coming together and already generating a lot of feedback from the community, so we're looking forward to an enjoyable and fun evening with both visitors and resi-

dents, alike," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

"We've got a great sponsorship package and welcome any businesses that would like to be a part of our newest signature event from the MVA."

Sponsorship levels are: Plat-

"There is a need to allow law enforcement to do their surveillance with an unmarked vehicle as it really helps them investigate violators of the law that [they are required to enforce]," said Sablan, who himself is a former CNMI law enforcer prior to being a House member.

According to Sablan, only the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs have the ability to use unmarked vehicles.

Blanco also supported the bill after confirming with Maratita that ABTC had pending cases in which the use of

ium (\$3,000), Gold (\$2,000), Silver (\$1,000), and Bronze (\$500).

Joining the event as food sponsors are Holy Smoke, The Hut, and I Love Saipan Shrimp Shack.

The festival is scheduled from 5pm to 11pm and will be open to adults age 21 and older (21 is the legal drinking age in the Marianas).

Entry fee is \$25 and will include a commemorative beer glass that patrons can use throughout the event and keep as a souvenir, two beer or wine samples, three or wine full servings, one free chaser, and a commemorative silicone wristband. Outside alcohol and food is not allowed.

For more information or a sponsorship package, contact Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez of the MVA at 664.3200/1 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

## ABTC a step closer toward using unmarked vehicles

**By ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The measure that would allow agents of the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division to use unmarked vehicles has hurdled its first step.

The House of Representatives Committee of Judicial and Governmental Operations, which Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) chairs, approved last Thursday the inclusion of House Bill 20-132 on the House calendar.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guer-

ero (R-Saipan). It seeks to allow the ABTC to own and operate unmarked vehicles.

According to ABTC director David Maratita, who attended the JGO meeting in place of Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, the division would use unmarked vehicles for surveillance purposes, when they do undercover operations.

Prior to its adoption at the committee level, multiple members expressed support for the passage of the bill.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) referred to it as "straightforward and simple."

Minority leader Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) also expressed his support.

"We talked about taking care of some of the social issues, especially [those that] concern the youth," said Villagomez. He added that unmarked vehicles would greatly support ABTC investigations as Maratita said some investigations require undercover operations.

"I believe we should give them the enforcement tools to further carry out their duties," Villagomez said.

unmarked vehicles were essential to their investigation.

Minority leader Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) also expressed his support.

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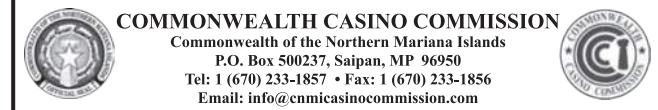
"I believe we should give them the enforcement tools to further carry out their duties," Villagomez said.



### DOG CONTROL PROGRAM

The staff of the Dog Control program pose for a photo with a few of the animals that are currently confined at the program's temporary shelter in As Lito. The program has already picked up over 11 percent of the stray dog population on island since 2014.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

### I. PRELIMINARIES:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: September 21, 2017

### II. REPORTS:

- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

### IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
  - 1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel & Roadways
  - 2. IPI Personnel - Training and Recruitment of U.S. Workers & Employee Compensation
  - 3. Responsible Gaming Program
  - 4. Other Miscellaneous Matters

### V. OTHER MATTERS:

### VI. OLD BUSINESS:

### NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consideration of Stipulated Resolution of Complaint 17-002; Adoption of CCC Order Confirming Stipulated Resolution of Complaint 17-002.

### B. Proposed Permanent Adoption of Casino Regulations:

- 1. § 175-10.1-920(b) Casino Employee License Standards.
- 2. § 175-10.1-1105 Duty to Disclose and Cooperate.
- 3. § 175-10.1-1130 Consent to Examination of Accounts and Records.
- 4. § 175-10.1-1315 Disqualification Criteria.
- 5. § 175-10.1-1501 Commencement of Complaint.
- 6. § 175-10.1-1510 Notice of Defense.
- 7. § 175-10.1-1515 Right to Hearing; Waiver.
- 8. § 175-10.1-1525 Revocation of License or Registration; Hearing.
- 9. § 175-10.1-1855 Collection of Gaming Credit.
- 10. § 175-10.1-2605 Licensure and Registration Required.

### C. Approval of Regular Casino Key Employee License (2-Year License):

- 1. Yinhan Hu – "Ian" – Manager of IT Gaming Solutions. Provisional License will expire on 11/22/17.

### D. Notification of Provisional Casino Key Employee Licenses:

- Na Zhao - "Amy" – Director of Internal Audit – Exp. 9/30/18
- Randy Wayne Kruidt - "Randy" – Director of Investigations – Exp. 9/30/18
- Chi Kit Tong – "Vincent" – VP of Compliance – 9/30/18

### E. Approval of Regular Casino Service Provider License (2-Year License):

- 1. Aristocrat (Asia) Pty Ltd – Electronic Gaming Machines. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 2. Aristocrat (Macau) Pty Ltd – Electronic Gaming Machines. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 3. Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty. Ltd.: Electronic Gaming Machines. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 4. Central Credit LLC: Credit Bureau. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 5. Event Payments Inc. (Global Cash Access Inc.): Kiosk – ATM Machines. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 6. Gaming Laboratories International, LLC: Gaming Device and Systems Testing. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 7. IGT: Electronic Gaming Machines. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 8. Konami Gaming Inc.: Electronic Gaming Machines. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.

### F. Notification of Provisional Casino Service Provider Licenses:

- SG Gaming Asia Limited: Electronic Gaming Machines & Shufflers (Exp. 11/30/17)
- Gaming Partners International USA, Inc.: Electronic Gaming Machines (Exp. 11/30/17)
- BMM Australia Pty. Ltd.: Testing of Computer Systems (Exp. 11/30/17)
- TCS John Huxley American, Inc.: Roulette/Baccarat/Dice (Exp. 11/30/17)
- Pokaj D.O.O. – Alfastreet: Electronic Gaming Machines (Exp. 11/30/17)

### G. Approval of Regular Casino Vendor License (2-Year License):

- 1. D'Elegance Enterprises, Inc.: Food Catering Provider. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.
- 2. Yaong Corporation: Foods/Groceries/Restaurant Supplier. Provisional License will expire on 11/30/17.

### H. Notification of Provisional Non-Gaming Vendor Licenses:

- Carrier Guam, Inc.: Retail/Maintenance Air-conditioning Equipment (Exp. 9/17/2018)
- D&W Enterprises, Inc.: Petroleum Diesel Provider (Exp. 9/27/2018)
- Falcon Fire Protection LLC: Fire Protection Provider (Exp. 9/13/2018)
- International Fleet Sales Inc.: Vehicle Transportation and Parts Supplier (Exp. 9/13/2018)
- Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc.: Assorted Consumer Product Distributor (Exp. 9/25/2018)
- Micros Fidelio Worldwide LLC: OPERA Management System Provider (Exp. 10/1/2018)
- D'Elegance Enterprises, Inc.: Food Catering Provider (Exp. 11/30/17)
- Yaong Corporation: Foods/Groceries/Restaurant Supplier (Exp. 11/30/17)

### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Report by the Legal Counsel
- B. Report by the CCC Audit Manager
- C. IPI Financial Matters

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan  
Chairman

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### 'It is about the most difficult thing you could imagine'

President Donald Trump may or may not have said something insensitive or excessively blunt to the widow of a soldier killed earlier this month in Niger. We don't know. No one has produced a transcript of the conversation yet.

But when Trump called the widow of Sgt. La David T. Johnson, Democratic Rep. Frederica Wilson of Florida also listened in.

That's one more person on the line than ideal. The congresswoman is reportedly a close friend of the family, but also a noted Trump detractor. That injects politics where it shouldn't be.

But our point is a larger one than whether Trump's remarks were misconstrued, inartful or inappropriate.

The fact is, Trump made the call \_ even after his chief of staff, John Kelly, a retired Marine general whose son was killed in Afghanistan in 2010, advised against it. Trump made the call after Kelly told him that other presidents didn't always call every family of a fallen soldier. Kelly said that when his son was killed, his family did not get a call.

"If you elect to call a family like this, it is about the most difficult thing you could imagine," Kelly said. "There's no perfect way to make that phone call. When I took this job and talked to President Trump about how to do it, my first recommendation was he not do it. Because it's not the phone call that parents, family members, are looking forward to."

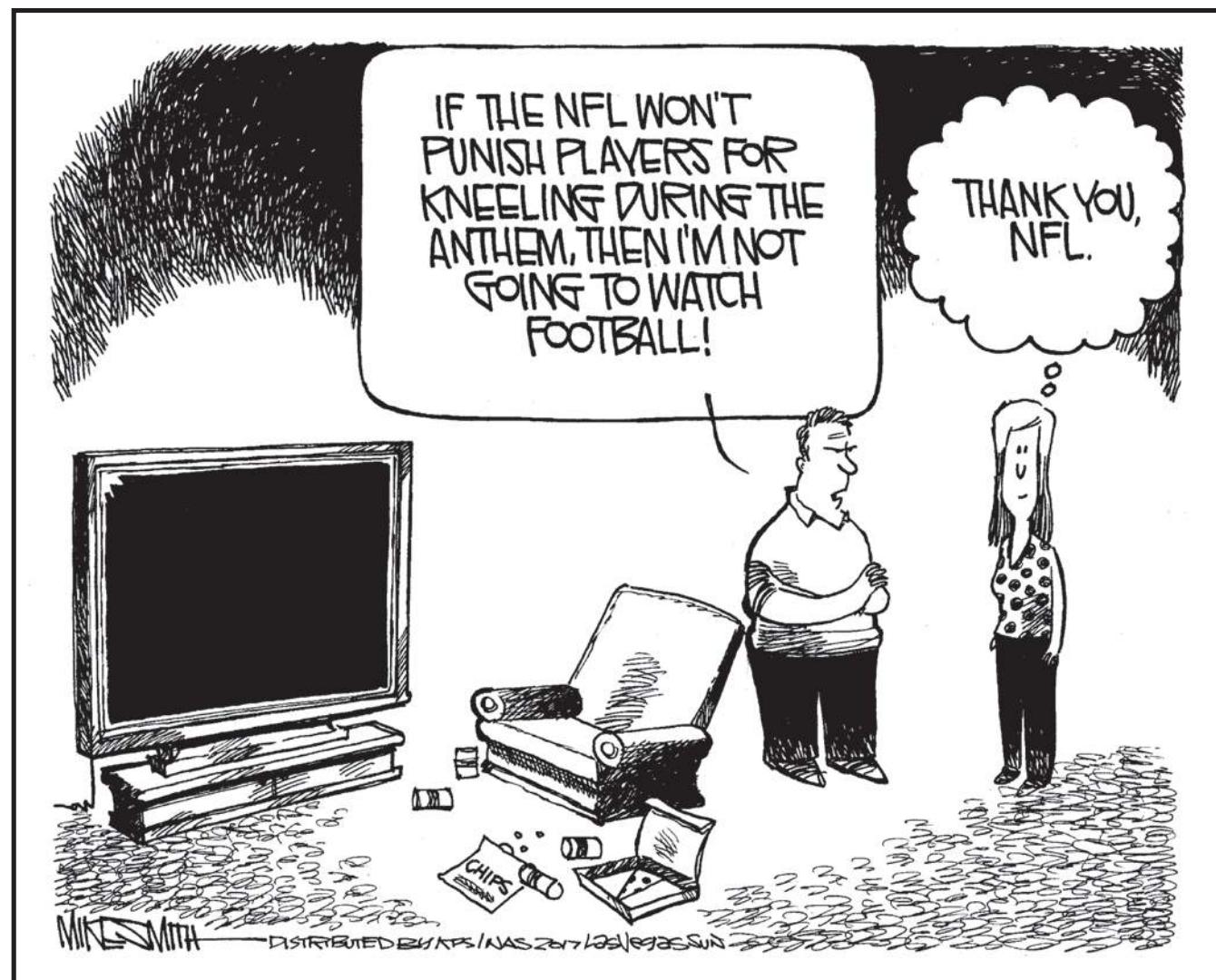
Kelly elaborated: "Typically the only phone calls the family receives are the most important phone calls they could imagine, and that is from their buddies. In my case, hours after my son was killed, his friends were calling us from Afghanistan telling us what a great guy he was. Those are the only phone calls that really matter, and yeah, the letters count to a degree, but there's not much that really can take the edge off what a family member's going through."

Kelly said Trump asked him what he should say. Kelly responded with something that every American should hear, something that his casualty officer said to him when his son was killed: "He was doing exactly what he wanted to do when he was killed. He knew what he was getting into by joining that 1 percent. He knew what the possibilities were because we're at war, and when he died ... he was surrounded by the best men on this earth, his friends."

He was where he wanted to be, doing what he wanted to do. Strip out the politics and that's the essence.

Let's all take a deep breath, set aside political rancor and honor the four soldiers who died serving this country in Niger.

(c)2017 Chicago Tribune



## There's a bamboo ceiling

By KARTHICK RAMAKRISHNAN and JENNIFER LEE  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**G**oogle, Microsoft, Adobe and BlackBerry are leading technology companies with something notable in common: They are all run by Asian-American CEOs. The visibility of Asian-American leaders in tech companies has not gone unnoticed. Former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon infamously complained that "two-thirds or three-quarters of the CEOs in Silicon Valley are from South Asia or Asia." Perception is far from reality, however. A new report by Ascend shows that Asian-American CEOs are the exception, not the norm.

Rather than being overrepresented in Silicon Valley, Asian-American executives are severely underrepresented. They may be hired in large numbers by tech companies, but Asian-Americans are the group least likely to be promoted into managerial and executive ranks. Whites are twice as likely as Asians to hold executive positions. And while white women have made gains over the past decade as more have broken through the glass ceiling, Asian women have not experienced the same. In fact, they are among those least likely to be promoted, and their gap with white men has worsened over the last decade. So, while Asian-Americans can get through Silicon Valley's doors, they are unable to move up the ladders.

What might account for this bamboo ceiling? One obvious explanation is racial discrimination, whether based on explicit or implicit bias about who fits in among corporate leaders. Employers often counter that their judgments about leadership potential are based on evidence, not stereotypes. Asian-American employees, they suggest, tend to rank high in hard skills such as technical competence, but low in soft skills such as the ability to communicate and work well with others. This perceived deficit in soft skills may be particularly acute for first-generation Asian immigrants, who may have lower levels of English proficiency, speak with a foreign accent or lack deep familiarity with American cultural traditions.

Recent data reveal something else at play: Asian-Americans aren't provided basic opportunities to demonstrate their soft skills and hone their leadership abilities, and this is true not only for first-generation immigrants but also for those Asians born in the United States. In the 2016 National Asian American Survey, we included several questions about leadership experiences at work and elsewhere. The survey was based on a nationally repre-

sentative sample of Asian-Americans, with comparable samples of whites, African-Americans, Latinos and Pacific Islanders.

Our survey showed that an identical proportion of Asian-American and white employees said that they serve in a supervisory capacity (40 percent), and Asian-American women actually were slightly more likely than white women to serve in such a capacity (35 percent versus 32 percent). Significant differences emerged, however, when we asked employees whether they ever planned or chaired a meeting at work.

Running a meeting at work is a relatively low bar for providing employees with leadership experience \_ a prerequisite for an executive position \_ but our data suggest that Asian-Americans are significantly disadvantaged, even in this simple endeavor. Only 51 percent of Asian-American employees indicated that they had led a meeting at work, compared with 68 percent of white employees. Results for African-American and Latino employees were on par with Asian-Americans, at 53 percent and 50 percent, respectively. The situation was worse among women, with Asian-American women 25 percentage points less likely to chair a meeting when compared with white women. Racial gaps persisted even among those in supervisory roles, with Asian-American supervisors 18 percentage points less likely to chair a meeting than white supervisors.

What can be done to address these disparities? One obvious, simple and costless solution is for employers to make sure that everyone who's qualified gets an opportunity to lead a business meeting. (Asian-American employees also can show greater initiative by explicitly requesting such opportunities.) Mentoring also makes a difference: Research shows that when white men in leadership positions mentor minority employees, the latter are more likely to advance.

Of course, larger problems with implicit bias and explicit discrimination may await those who move on to higher-level leadership experiences, as the case of Ellen Pao recently revealed. And the remedies for those higher-level problems may range from diversity training and inclusion programs to the threat of lawsuits and public shaming. Still, employers can do more to help Asian-Americans break through the bamboo ceiling.

Karthick Ramakrishnan is associate dean of public policy at the University of California at Riverside. Jennifer Lee is a professor of sociology at Columbia University. They are writing a book on Asian-American mobility and soft skills. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## Cannabis legalization: Are we ready?

States that have set up regulated markets for marijuana use for responsible adult consumers have seen significant benefits to public health, safety, and quality of life for all residents. These benefits include increased revenues; creation of new businesses and ancillary companies; employment, training, and education; products and services; increase value in real estate, tax collection; tourism and spending; agriculture and industrial products; arrests and incarceration savings; reduction in teen access and usage; reduction in opioid addiction and abuse; access to a safer and affordable alternative for treatment to medical conditions and addiction; and respect for civil liberty, providing legal option of choice.

The proposed CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 prohibits:

- Public consumption; consuming in motor vehicles (impaired driving); consuming marijuana in the presence of minors under 18; selling/distributing to persons under 21; import/export of marijuana; contract worker personnel for licensed establishments; entrance of licensing prospects without proof of continued CNMI residency for the past 10 years prior to the Act's passage with a 10-year moratorium period.

It allows:

- Establishment of a cannabis commission to promulgate rules and regulations.
- Homegrown marijuana registry system and homegrown marijuana registry cards to identify legal home growers for personal use (non-commercial): six mature and 24 immature plants limit per household.
- A favorable medical marijuana system for all medical patients-qualified CNMI residents and nonresidents of all ages.
- Regulated and licensed marijuana establishments: Producer (micro/commercial), processor and retail/lounges, including government option to apply for licenses.
- Persons 21 and above to cultivate, possess, purchase and consume marijuana items for medical and other personal purposes.
- Personal possession and purchase limits: 1 ounce marijuana; 72 ounces liquid marijuana product (edibles); 16 ounces solid marijuana product (edibles); 5 grams extract.
- Medical patients allowed to cultivate over 6 flowering plant limit if doctor recommends the need to increase for treatment and no limits on immature plant count.
- On-site consumption at licensed marijuana lounges with exemptions applied for medical marijuana patients below age 21.

**LITERARY NOOK**

## Dirges for the shipwrecked

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*"And these mine eyes shall see all times, how they are lost in the sea of vast eternity."*

—Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

**Maritime Messages the Mainland Missed**

Of that calm before and during the storm  
tempestuous times with life jackets and life boats  
throwing out lifelines in many different forms  
flotsam and jetsam is filled with glass floats  
in the sea foam high tide and hurricanes crest  
tropical typhoons ignore the strongest jetty  
many lives are lost, tears on the dead man's chest  
undercurrents sweep away all those not ready  
in the Mariana Trench deepest part of the ocean  
down in the depths volcanoes flow without sound  
underwater sea life exists without commotion  
dirges for the shipwrecked, drowned, never found

■ Licensed micro-producers for small scale cultivation of no more than 25 flowering plants to sell to licensed establishments.

■ CNMI government option to avail of licensing to enter industry.

■ Mandate only U.S. citizen/CNMI permanent residents for licensed establishment workforce.

■ Prospective applicants for licensing must show proof of continued CNMI residency within past 10 years from the Act's passage, with provision to stay in effect for 10 years from passage (may be extended by Legislature if necessary).

■ Mandate labeling requirements for marijuana items to be sold by licensees.

■ Pre-employment and employment protection provision against discrimination.

■ Child custody protection provision against discrimination.

Negative impacts of marijuana prohibition: Unregulated and non-taxed black market-increased marijuana prices and tainted or contaminated marijuana and access to minors; judicial and incarceration costs; drug testing and arrest records affect employment and deny student financial aid; introduction of "ice" (crystal methamphetamine) into the communities to substitute marijuana supply shortage; associated risks—arrest and fear—for medical patients to acquire cannabis for treatment.

There are opportunities, advantages, and benefits of cannabis that can be harnessed. The full legalization to explore and benefit from the potentials of cannabis is an option the CNMI needs to progress in health and welfare; agricultural and industrial; and on a socio-economic level.

The true essence of cannabis legalization has always been a civil liberty issue. Individuals should have the freedom of choice to cultivate and consume cannabis for whatever purposes, whether medical or nonmedical, and without the fear of arrest, punishment and harassment. It is time we consider the benefits of cannabis for a better CNMI.

The second Saipan public hearing is today, Oct. 23, 2017, at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The public is highly encouraged to attend and participate by giving oral or written testimony on their position to the CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018. As the saying goes, "Speak or forever hold your peace." Have a great Marianas and see you tonight.

**Gerry Palacios Hemley**

*via email*

## What is substance abuse?

Substance abuse is the use of any substance to cause a high. I like to say that I am not abusing coffee, but maybe I am?

messages in songs, ballads, bottles lost at sea  
island harbors and havens for Pacific poetry.

**Moonlight on Tinian and Manchuria**

Moonlight shines on the Pacific Ocean tonight  
the smell of the sea comes up the island cliffs  
I drink two cans of warm 'Kloud' Korean beer  
the constellation Lyra the Harp fades from sight  
moonlight dances on water, clouds up in the sky  
all alone I start to hum the old song 'Stardust'  
then think of Dean Martin singing 'Amore'  
"...the moon hits your eyes like a big pizza pie"  
I toast friendly dragon clouds passing in the night  
you told me you saw them in the sky in China  
they dance and disappear in the warm moonlight  
you are north of North Korea in Manchuria  
visiting your mother in Heilongjiang province  
now the moon shines on the Black Dragon River.

*Heilongjiang is a province in NE China in northern Manchuria. Heilongjiang means Black Dragon River in the Chinese language.*

**From Yesteryear to Buds in Your Ear**

Gone are the days of nickel candy bars, five cent cigars  
forgotten the telephone booth make your call for a dime  
gazing up and hitching your wagon to wandering stars

How much coffee is considered within reason? Two cups? Four? Whatever the case, I want to focus on our young kids on island and substances that are fairly easy to get.

Since I have been studying substance abuse, I have learned that a vast majority of people who become addicted to tobacco, alcohol, and drugs take their first puff, chew, sip, snort or injection when they are young—often, very young. Like the scourges of old, this epidemic spreads without regard to economic, racial, geographic, educational, religious, or family boundaries. No child is immune to tobacco, alcohol, and the drug epidemic.

First, you must understand what draws kids to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. It may be the way it smells, or looks, or just the fact that uncle, brother, dad, or mom is abusing it. It may be the way the smoke floats away or the way it makes one cough. It may be the way it makes an uncle act out.

Did you know that you are not allowed to ask your son or daughter below 21 to touch alcohol? Did you know that if you are not 18, you are not allowed to buy tobacco products on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota? Then there is "ice." Ice has no place in paradise but, more and more, this seems to be the drug of choice on Saipan and Tinian.

Want to keep your kids safe from substance abuse? Try these three things:

(1) To keep your kids safe, you need to develop a place that is safe for them to play and be. This place should be away from any drug use and substances like tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. It should have fun things like board games, twister, and maybe even portable tablets for internet fun. This place should be at your home, where there is always constant supervision.

(2) To add to this, you should have your kids in sporting programs like soccer, baseball, and even karate. These extra-curricular activities should take some time off your kid's hands. These activities are all available on Saipan.

(3) Finally, introduce your kids to people who are productive or positive. Let them know who these people are and what they do for themselves and their island. These people will provide a security for your kids to look up to and somehow emulate hopefully.

I hope this helps you out in some way. If you are dealing with tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, then you may want to seek out help by checking into a program for drugs like at the Marianas Plaza where Marianas Behavioral Health International is. If your kid has substance abuse problems, please seek help at the Systems of Care or at the Community Guidance Center.

For more, please call NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or 235-7275 for Fax or TTY and online at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org).

**Thomas M. Thornburgh**

*NMPASI*

wedding parties singing 'get me to the church on time'  
yesterday it was astronauts and landing on the moon  
vinyls, cassette tapes, VHS morphing into cds and dvds  
elephants in the circus and daring on a flying trapeze  
a camp fire barbecue strumming and humming a tune  
now people can't take their eyes off their I phone 24 7s  
no talk at meals cell phones take photos reach far away  
communication satellites rotate high up in the heavens  
tweeters tweet FB memes and shares, instagram all day  
one would think all this stimuli fills every little void  
yet our nation is in peril, death from synthetic opioids.

**Been Up So Long it Looks Like Dawn to Me**

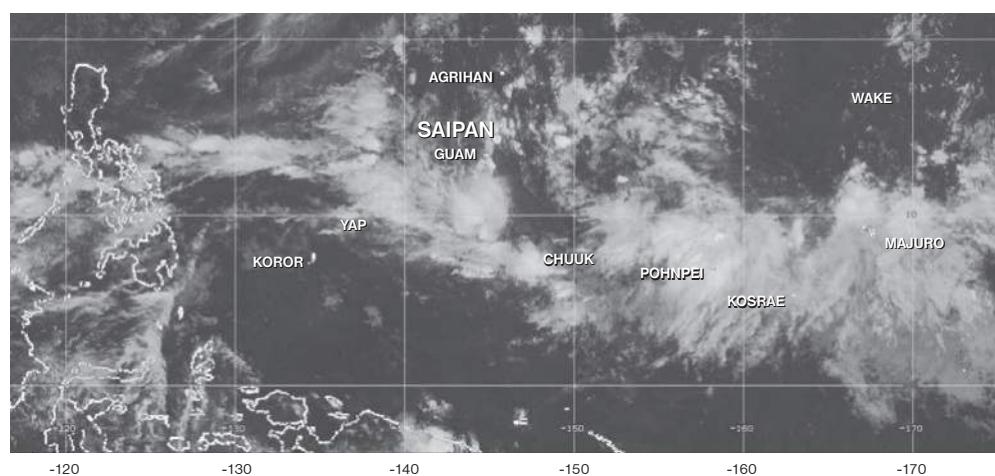
I've been up for so long it looks like dawn to me  
way up in the clouds a little pink in the stratosphere  
night is flying away and dawn is just about to be  
jet airplanes passing back and forth from there to here  
been uptown for musical dates and I'd like to stay there  
why go downtown when this is what I want to hear  
been up and down and around the block, once in pairs  
been up the fast elevator and the big escalator too  
and trudged up and down many the flight of stairs  
been up to heaven in another life far above the blue  
been up so long it feels like relative normal life to me  
on the island of Tinian's cliffs high above the sea  
my sunrise spirit is up and I refuse to wear a frown  
as the late Tom Petty sang, "...and I won't back down."

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Breezy. Cloudy with occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 88° ▼ 79°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 11:38 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 27W was located near latitude 10.3N and longitude 147.5E at 1000 AM ChST. This position was

- About 285 miles southeast of Guam
- About 305 miles south-southeast of Rota
- About 350 miles south-southeast of Tinian
- About 355 miles south-southeast of Saipan

Tropical Depression 27W is expected to drift southwest today before turning to the west Monday and northwest on Tuesday. Maximum sustained winds are 35 mph, and 27W is not expected to significantly intensify today, but some gradual intensification is expected Monday. Current model trends agree on a southwest dip followed by a turn toward northwest. There is still uncertainty as to the strength of the system. All computer models keep 27W weak as it drifts southwest and indicate only minimal intensification, possibly into a tropical storm, as it passes south of Guam on Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85°	/ 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/ 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	83°	/ 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87°	/ 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	89°	/ 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	89°	/ 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87°	/ 82°

## AROUND THE GLOBE

	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64°	/ 55°
Beijing	Sunny	63°	/ 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	82°	/ 73°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	82°	/ 72°
London	Showers	63°	/ 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	100°	/ 72°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90°	/ 75°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70°	/ 54°
Miami	Showers	85°	/ 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	73°	/ 67°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	66°	/ 55°
Paris	Showers	57°	/ 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66°	/ 52°
Rome	Cloudy	68°	/ 48°
Salem	Showers	72°	/ 52°
San Francisco	Sunny	75°	/ 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64°	/ 45°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	64°	/ 54°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	75°	/ 66°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

3:40 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.02
10:16 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
4:09 PM	LOW TIDE	1.00
9:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:47 am	8:30 pm	-
Tuesday	9:36 am	9:15 pm	-
Wednesday	10:25 am	10:02 pm	-
Thursday	11:13 am	10:50 pm	-
Friday	12:00 pm	11:40 pm	-

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily				DL298 10:20am 3:00pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am 2, 3, 4				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1, 2, 3			
TW308 2:35am 6:20am 6, 7							

# Island Snapshots



## ERADICATION EFFORTS

Employees of CNMI Quarantine and Department of Lands and Natural Resources pose with chopped down coconut trees and prepare the debris for incineration. DLNR has closed off the Teksberry Park on Rota after officials declared the area as a coconut rhinoceros beetle breeding site.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CNMI Quarantine and Department of Lands and Natural Resources personnel check up traps for traces of adult coconut rhinoceros beetles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## DELICIOUS GUYS

Korea Comedy TV's "Delicious Guys" films at Surf Club on Sept. 28, 2017.

MVA



Korea Comedy TV's "Delicious Guys" is served by Gloria Hunter, in red, at The Shack on Sept. 29, 2017.

MVA



## CDA PUBLIC HEARING

Rep. Ed Prospt speaks at a public hearing held by the Commonwealth Development Authority at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Friday, on an application for qualifying certificate tax breaks filed by a proposed hotel investor.

BEA CABRERA



## BRIGHT SMILES, BRIGHT FUTURES

Jener A. Pineda, vice principal of the Northern Marianas International School, receives donations from SDA Clinic's Dr. Warren L. Creed and staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Korea Comedy TV's "Delicious Guys" films at IHOP on Sept. 29, 2017. The show will air three episodes on the Marianas beginning Oct. 20, 2017.

MVA



Northern Marianas International School receives dental kit donations from SDA Clinic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Business

## End of an era as HK stock trading floor set to close

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Hong Kong's last remaining stock market floor traders are taking their final orders as the exchange prepares to shut its trading hall.

The bourse's operator, Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing, says it will close the trading hall by the end of the month and turn the space into a showcase for the city's financial markets.

Yip Wing-keung, a trading manager at brokerage Christfund Securities, donned his red trading jacket for the last time Friday, his final day on the floor. He and the other few floor traders left have been moving out ahead of the closure.

The shutdown marks the end of an era for the stock market, which symbolized the city's ascent as an Asian finance hub. Activity on the floor, one of a few such venues left worldwide, dwindled as stock dealing became fully computerized.

"I feel sadness and regret," said Yip, who has been a floor trader since the hall was opened in 1986 after four previous exchanges were merged. "Hong Kong is one of the world's financial centers, but if we don't have the stock market trading hall, it will be a little sorrowful. This is my



In this Oct. 19, 2017, photo, Yip Wing-keung, a trading manager at local brokerage Christfund Securities, wearing his red trading jacket, poses for a photo at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

own individual reflection."

Yip said the floor traders resisted the closure. They sent a protest letter to the government but it was in vain.

"We wrote it but were overruled," he said. "We can't stop

the times from changing."

Hong Kong's stock exchange, Asia's third biggest by volume, follows other global peers like Tokyo, Singapore and London that have eliminated their trading floors

In the U.S., floor traders at the New York Stock Exchange still provide the backdrop for financial TV news reports and bell-ringing ceremonies. But Chicago and New York commodity futures trading

pits, where traders used old-fashioned "open outcry" techniques, have shut in recent years as volume fell to 1 percent of the total.

Hong Kong Exchanges

stopped updating stats for floor trading in 2014, when it accounted for less than 1 percent of monthly turnover.

In the 1980s and 1990s the hall housed more than 900 trading desks. The exchange's most recent count showed only 62 dealing desks were leased, with about 30 traders showing up on an average day. On a visit to the hall this week, only about seven traders could be seen.

Back in its heyday, floor trading was computer-assisted but dealers still needed to talk to each other to complete transactions, either by phone or in person, depending on how far away they sat from each other, Yip said.

"If they were too far you had to use the internal phone line, but if you couldn't get through, you had to run over to them," he said. "So you saw lots of people running back and forth."

These days, Yip just punches orders into his computer.

"Now it's more comfortable" but relationships with other traders are not as good as they used to be, said Yip.

He doesn't look forward to returning to his head office.

"It won't be so free," he said.

## Judge tosses \$417M award against Johnson & Johnson

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A judge on Friday tossed out a \$417 million jury award to a woman who claimed she developed ovarian cancer by using Johnson & Johnson talc-based baby powder for feminine hygiene.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Maren Nelson granted the company's request for a new trial, saying there were errors and jury misconduct in the previous trial that ended with the award two months ago.

Nelson also ruled that there wasn't convincing evidence that Johnson & Johnson acted with malice and the award for damages was excessive.

The decision will be appealed even though Eva Echeverria has died, said her attorney, Mark Robinson Jr.

"We will continue to fight on behalf of all women who have been impacted by this dangerous product," he said in a statement.

Echeverria alleged Johnson & Johnson failed to adequately warn consumers about talcum powder's potential cancer risks. She used the company's baby powder

on a daily basis beginning in the 1950s until 2016 and was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2007, according to court papers.

Echeverria developed ovarian cancer as a "proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous and defective nature of talcum powder," she said in her lawsuit.

Her attorney contended that documents showed that Johnson & Johnson knew about the risks of talc and ovarian cancer for three decades.

The company said it was pleased with the ruling.

"Ovarian cancer is a devastating disease—but it is not caused by the cosmetic-grade talc we have used in Johnson's Baby Powder for decades. The science is clear and we will continue to defend the safety of Johnson's Baby Powder as we prepare for additional trials in the U.S.," spokeswoman Carol Goodrich said in a statement.

Similar allegations have led to hundreds of lawsuits against the New Jersey-based company. Jury awards have totaled hundreds of millions of dollars.

## Medical students in limbo as young immigrant program ends

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Medical student Alejandra Duran Arreola dreams of becoming an OB-GYN in her home state of Georgia, where there's a shortage of doctors and one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the U.S.

But the 26-year-old Mexican immigrant's goal is now trapped in the debate over a program protecting hundreds of thousands of immigrants like her from deportation. Whether she becomes a doctor depends on whether Congress finds an alternative to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that President Donald Trump phased out last month.

Arreola, who was brought to the U.S. illegally at age 14, is among about 100 medical students nationwide who are enrolled in DACA, and many have become a powerful voice in the immigration debate. Their stories have resonated with leaders in Washington. Having excelled in school and gained admission into competitive medical schools, they're on the verge of starting residencies to treat patients, a move experts say could help address the nation's worsening

doctor shortage.

"It's mostly a tragedy of wasted talent and resources," said Mark Kuczewski, who leads the medical education department at Loyola University's medical school, where Arreola is in her second year. "Our country will have said, 'You cannot go treat patients.'"

The Chicago-area medical school was the first to openly accept DACA students and has the largest concentration nationwide at 32. California and New York also have significant populations, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

DACA gives protection to about 800,000 immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and who otherwise would lack legal permission to be in the country. The immigrants must meet strict criteria to receive two-year permits that shield them from deportation and allow them to work.

Then-President Barack Obama created DACA in 2012. Critics call it an illegal amnesty program that is taking jobs from U.S. citizens. In rescinding it last month, Trump gave lawmakers until March to come up with a replacement.

Public support for DACA is wide. A recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed that just 1 in 5 Americans want to deport DACA recipients.

Medical students such as Arreola are trying to shape the debate, and they have the backing of influential medical groups, including the American Medical Association.

Arreola took a break from her studies last month to travel to Washington with fellow Loyola medical student and DACA recipient Cesar Montolongo Hernandez to talk to stakeholders. In their meetings with lawmakers, they framed the program as a medical necessity but also want a solution for others with DACA.

A 2017 report by the Association of American Medical Colleges predicts a shortfall of between about 35,000 and 83,000 doctors in 2025. That shortage is expected to increase with population growth and aging.

Hernandez, a 28-year-old from Mexico simultaneously pursuing a Ph.D., wants to focus his research on early detection of diseases. His work permit expires next Septem-

ber, and he's worried he won't qualify for scientific research funding without the program.

"I've shown I deserve to be here," said Hernandez, who met with Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, a Democrat who's called for Congress to quickly pass a replacement for DACA.

For Arreola it's about returning to the state she's called home since she was 14 and giving back to areas in need of doctors.

"My family is from there; I know those people," Arreola said. "Those are the people that inspired to really give this a push."

Among those Arreola met with were policy staff for Georgia Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson, who believes the Obama program was "an overreach of executive power" but also wants Congress to write a plan to protect DACA recipients.

Medical school administrators say the immigrant students stand out even among their accomplished peers. They're often bilingual and bicultural, have overcome adversity and are more likely to work with underserved populations or rural areas.

# Nation

## Former presidents call for unity at hurricane aid concert

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The five living former presidents put aside politics and appeared together for the first time since 2013 at a concert on Saturday to raise money for victims of devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Democrats Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter and Republicans George H.W. and George W. Bush gathered in College Station, Texas, home of Texas A&M University, to try to unite the country after the storms.

Texas A&M is home to the presidential library of the elder Bush. At 93, he has a form of Parkinson's disease and appeared in a wheelchair at the event. His wife, Barbara, and George W. Bush's wife, Laura, were in the audience.

Grammy award winner Lady Gaga made a surprise appearance at the concert that also featured country music band Alabama, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer 'Soul Man' Sam Moore, gospel legend Yolanda Adams and Texas musicians Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen.

The appeal backed by the ex-presidents has raised \$31 million since it began on Sept. 7, said Jim McGrath, spokesman for George H.W. Bush.

President Donald Trump offered a video greeting that avoided his past criticism of



Former Presidents from right, Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter gather on stage during a hurricanes relief concert in College Station, Texas, Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017. AP

the former presidents and called them "some of America's finest public servants."

"This wonderful effort reminds us that we truly are one nation under God, all unified by our values and devotion to one another," Trump said in the greeting, played during the

concert.

Four of the five former presidents—Obama, George W. Bush, Carter and Clinton—made brief remarks that did not mention Trump. The elder Bush did not speak but smiled and waved to the crowd. They appealed for

national unity to help those hurt by the hurricanes.

"The heart of America, without regard to race or religion or political party, is greater than our problems," said Clinton.

The last time the five were

together was in 2013, when Obama was still in office, at the dedication of George W. Bush's presidential library in Dallas.

There is precedent for former presidents joining forces for post-disaster fundraising.

### Trump has no plans to block scheduled release of JFK records

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump says he doesn't plan to block the scheduled release of thousands of never publicly seen government documents related to President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"Subject to the receipt of further information," he wrote in a Saturday morning tweet, "I will be allowing, as President, the long blocked and classified JFK FILES to be opened."

The National Archives has until Thursday to disclose the remaining files related to Kennedy's 1963 assassination. The trove is expected to include more than 3,000 documents that have never been seen by the public and more than 30,000 that have been previously released but with redactions.

Congress mandated in 1992 that all assassination documents be released within 25 years, but Trump has the power to block them on the grounds that making them public would harm intelligence or military operations, law enforcement or foreign relations.

"Thank you. This is the correct decision. Please do not allow exceptions for any agency of government," tweeted Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics and author of a book about Kennedy, who has urged the president to release the files. "JFK files have been hidden too long."

The anticipated release has had scholars and armchair detectives buzzing. But it's unlikely the documents will contain any big revelations on a tragedy that has stirred conspiracy theories for decades, Judge John Tunheim told The Associated Press last month. Tunheim was chairman of the independent agency in the 1990s that made public many assassination records and decided how long others could remain secret.

Sabato and other JFK scholars believe the trove of files may, however, provide insight into assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City weeks before the killing, during which he visited the Soviet and Cuban embassies. Oswald's stated reason for go-

## Funeral held for US soldier at center of Trump fight

COOPER CITY, Fla. (AP)—Mourners Saturday remembered not only a U.S. soldier whose combat death in Africa led to a political fight between President Donald Trump and a Florida congresswoman but his three comrades who died with him.

Some of the 1,200 mourners exiting the church after the service said the portrait of Sgt. La David Johnson, 25, was joined on stage by photographs of his slain comrades. The four died Oct. 4 in Niger when they were attacked by militants tied to the Islamic State. Johnson's family asked reporters to remain outside for the service.

"We have to remember that one thing: that it wasn't just one soldier who lost his life," said Berchel Davis, a retired police officer who has six children in the military. He said the preacher and Rep. Frederica Wilson both made that a part of their talks. "That was a good gesture on everyone's part."

He and others said the fight between Trump and Wilson

was never mentioned during the service.

Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, 35, of Puyallup, Washington; Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, 39, of Springboro, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright, 29, of Lyons, Georgia, were killed along with La David Johnson in Niger.

La David Johnson's pregnant widow, Myeshia, had held the arm of an Army officer as she led her two young children and her family, dressed in white, into the Christ the Rock Community Church in suburban Fort Lauderdale. The modern hymn "I'm Yours" could be heard coming from inside.

Johnson's sister, Angela Ghent, said after the service that "it don't feel real" that her brother was killed.

"It hasn't hit me yet, I haven't had time to grieve," said Ghent, who last spoke to her brother a few weeks before he died. She said she was glad mourners got to hear about her brother's love for bikes and cars, not just

his military service.

The fight between Trump and Wilson had taken the focus off Johnson, whose widow is due to have a daughter in January. Sgt. Johnson told friends she will be named La'Shee. The couple, who were high school sweethearts, already had a 6-year-old daughter, Ah'Leysa, and 2-year-old son, La David Jr. An online fundraiser has raised more than \$600,000 to pay for the children's education.

Johnson's mother died when he was 5; he was raised by his aunt. His family enrolled him in 5000 Role Models, a project Wilson began in 1993 when she was an educator where African-American boys are paired with mentors who prepare them for college, vocational school or the military.

"We teach them to be a good man, a good husband and a good father. Sgt. Johnson typified all of those characteristics," said mourner Carlton Crawl, a public school consultant who is one of the program's mentors.

George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton raised money together after the 2004 South Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina the next year. Clinton and George W. Bush combined to seek donations after Haiti's 2011 earthquake.

"It's certainly a triple, if not a home run, every time," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston. "Presidents have the most powerful and prolific fundraising base of any politician in the world. When they send out a call for help, especially on something that's not political, they can rake in big money."

Amid criticism that his administration was initially slow to aid ravaged Puerto Rico, Trump accused island leaders of "poor leadership," and later tweeted that, "Electric and all infrastructure was disaster before hurricanes" while saying that Federal Emergency Management Agency, first-responders and military personnel wouldn't be able to stay there forever.

But Rottinghaus said ex-presidents are seen as less polarizing than the current president.

"They can't get away from the politics of the moment," he said of current White House occupants. "Ex-presidents are able to step back and be seen as the nation's grandfather."

ing was to get visas that would allow him to enter Cuba and the Soviet Union, according to the Warren Commission, the investigative body established by President Lyndon B. Johnson, but much about the trip remains unknown.

Longtime Trump friend Roger Stone, who wrote a book alleging that Johnson was the driving force behind Kennedy's assassination, had personally urged the president to make the files public, he told far-right conspiracy theorist and radio show host Alex Jones this past week.

"Yesterday, I had the opportunity to make the case directly to the president of the United States by phone as to why I believe it is essential that he release the balance of the currently redacted and classified JFK assassination documents," Stone said, adding that "a very good White House source," but not the president, had told him the Central Intelligence Agency, "specifically CIA director Mike Pompeo, has been lobbying the president furiously not to release these documents."

# Asia

## Japan votes for lower house; Abe's party seen headed for win

**TOKYO** (AP)—Voting in a general election started Sunday that would most likely hand Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's right-wing ruling coalition a victory and possibly close to a two-thirds majority in parliament.

Abe dissolved the lower house less than a month ago, forcing the snap election. He judged the timing was ripe for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party, or at least better than waiting until the end of its term next year.

Up for grabs are 465 seats in the more powerful lower house, which chooses the prime minister.

Media polls have indicated voters are passively choosing Abe's government despite its railroading of unfavorable bills and cronyism scandals, seeing it as a safer choice over an opposition with little or unknown track records.

Scare over North Korea's missile and nuclear development is also seen contributing to voters' conservative choice. Media surveys also predicted Abe's coalition to win around 300 seats though they said it could lose some ground from the current 318 due to scandals.

Hiroshi Yamada, 82, said his vote was based on "the issues such as (a possible) war and foreign affairs," suggesting his support for the LDP coalition amid growing concerns over North Korea. "I am supporting the political party which



AP

A voter casts her ballot in a general election at a polling station in Tokyo Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017.

presents feasible policies amid the current situation."

Makiko Yamada, who's unrelated to the other voter, said she was bothered by Abe's cronyism scandals. "I saw reports showing people who would help (Abe) were given high positions. It made me think twice."

Voters were casting ballots early, apparently worried by an approaching powerful typhoon. Vote counting at a

few locations in southwestern Japan may be delayed due to the weather, NHK public television reported.

Abe says he is seeking a mandate on his government's tougher stance to defend Japan against the North's threat and his proposed increase in the consumption tax, but experts say it's an election about securing his rule.

An election victory would boost Abe's chances to head

LDP for another three years at the party's convention next September. It would extend his premiership possibly to 2021 and eventually achieve his long-time goal of revising Japan's war-renouncing post-war constitution.

In a speech in Tokyo wrapping up the 12-day campaigning Saturday night, Abe said, "We will protect Japan at all costs for the future of this country."

Support for Abe's Cabinet has recovered thanks to the absence of parliamentary debates over political scandals during a recess.

The main opposition force, the Democratic Party, was in more disarray after a leadership change and a key member was slammed by an extramarital affair. Holding off on an election would only give Abe's potential rival, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, more time

to organize a challenge.

Koike hastily launched a new party to contest the vote, though she ended up not running. Her Party of Hope attracted a slew of defectors from the Democrats who converted to her populist platform including phasing out nuclear energy by 2030, and freezing of a consumption tax hike due in 2019. The initial excitement for her party has waned as Koike's nationalist stance and policies were seen similar to those of Abe's LDP.

The Democratic Party had imploded and its more liberal members, led by former top government spokesman Yukio Edano, launched yet another group, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, whose focus on grassroots democracy, pacifist principles and calls for "decent" politics is now outpolling the Party of Hope.

Abe's victory would likely mean a continuation of the policies he has pursued in the nearly five years since he took office in December 2012—a hard line on North Korea, close ties with Washington, including defense, as well as a super-lose monetary policy and push for nuclear energy.

With a possible backing from the conservative opposition, he may get the two-thirds majority he needs in parliament to propose a constitutional amendment, though any change also needs approval in a public referendum.

## US: DNA test confirms top Filipino terror suspect is dead

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—DNA tests have confirmed the death of one of the FBI's most-wanted terror suspects, who the Philippine military reported was killed in a final battle to quell an Islamic State group-linked siege in southern Marawi city, U.S. and Philippine officials said Saturday.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Molly Koscina told The Associated Press that DNA tests done in Virginia at the request of the Philippine military confirmed the death of Isnilon Hapilon. Washington has backed efforts by the Philippines, a treaty ally, to combat terrorism for years.

"This is yet another example of how the U.S. is supporting our friend, partner and ally in the fight against terror," Koscina said.

Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute, another leader of the Marawi siege, were killed in a gunbattle Monday in a push by thousands of troops to retake the last pocket of the Islamic city held by the mili-

tants, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

The Philippine military believes that Mahmud bin Ahmad, a top Malaysian militant and close associate of Hapilon, had also been killed in the Marawi clashes, although his body has yet to be recovered by troops.

DNA tests were also being done on the remains of other suspects who have been recovered by troops, Lorenzana said without elaborating.

The confirmation of the deaths of Hapilon and Maute would pave the way for the payment of huge U.S. and Philippine bounties offered for the two. A rescued 16-year-old hostage provided the crucial information that allowed troops to locate Hapilon and Maute in one building in Marawi, Lorenzana said.

The U.S. State Department has offered a reward of up to \$5 million for Hapilon, who

Washington blames for ransom kidnappings of several Americans, one of whom was beheaded in 2001 in southern

Basilan province. Hapilon had been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged involvement in terrorist acts against U.S. nationals and other foreigners.

A soft-spoken Islamic preacher born to a family of militants on southern Basilan island, Hapilon had been linked to several major attacks in the southern Philippines, including kidnappings, bombings and attacks on urban centers.

Hapilon and Maute were among the leaders in a nearly five-month insurrection in the lakeside city that has left at least 1,127 people dead, including 915 militants and 165 soldiers and police.

The siege has sparked fears that the Islamic State group may gain a foothold in Southeast Asia by influencing and providing funds to local militants as it suffers battle defeats in Syria and Iraq.

The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance aircraft to help Filipinos battling the Marawi attackers.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### US commanders stress 'ironclad' commitment to defend SKorea

**BUSAN, South Korea** (AP)—U.S. naval commanders on Saturday reiterated Washington's "ironclad" commitment to defend South Korea against North Korean threats as an American nuclear-powered aircraft carrier visited a South Korean port following a joint naval drill. Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of Naval Forces Korea, said aboard the USS Ronald Reagan that the drills enhanced the allies' ability to coordinate operations. The five-day drills that ended Friday involved fighter jets, helicopters and 40 naval ships and submarines from the two countries training for potential North Korean aggression. In an apparent show of force against North Korea, the United States also sent several of its advanced warplanes, including four F-22 and F-35 fighter jets and two B-1B long-range bombers, for an air show and exhibition in Seoul that began on Tuesday. The drills came ahead of President Donald Trump's first official visit to Asia next month that's likely to be overshadowed by tensions with North Korea.

#### Attack outside Afghan military academy kills 15

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—A suicide attack killed 15 military academy members west of Afghanistan's capital Kabul Saturday, a Defense Ministry official said. Dawlat Waziri, the ministry's spokesman, said the attack

took place outside the training academy of the Marshal Fahim National Defense University, killing 15 and wounding four others. Waziri added that attack on foot occurred in the early evening when the on-duty officers were on their way home. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, according to their spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid, who said that 27 academy members were killed. A statement issued by the office of President Ashraf Ghani said that the targeting of security forces illustrated the militants' "isolation."

#### Abducted female Pakistani journalist returned home

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The mother of a Pakistani journalist who was abducted in 2015 and freed this week, says her daughter is under extreme mental pressure and unable to tell much about her ordeal. Kaneez Bibi said Saturday that her daughter Zeenat Shahzadi arrived when she was not there and she does not know who dropped her off at the home in the eastern city of Lahore. She said the family is joyous on her return but concerned over her mental health. Bibi said Shahzadi, 26, told her that Taliban fighters kept her in a mountainous area. Retired Justice Javed Iqbal, head of the commission for missing persons, told reporters that Shahzadi was recovered Wednesday night from near the Afghan border. Iqbal said tribal elders played an important role in her recovery.

# World

## Spanish PM aims to take over Catalan govt; residents aghast

**BARCELONA, Spain**

(AP)—Spain announced an unprecedented plan Saturday to sack Catalonia's separatist leaders, install its own people in their place and call a new local election, using previously untapped constitutional powers to take control of the prosperous region that is threatening to secede.

Catalonia's president responded by making a veiled independence threat, telling lawmakers to come up with a plan to counter Spain's "attempt to wipe out self-government."

Even moderate Catalans were aghast at the scope of the move, greeting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's announcement with banging pots and honking cars in the streets of Barcelona, the regional capital.

In a televised address late Saturday, Catalan President Carles Puigdemont called Rajoy's plans to replace him and his cabinet an "attempt to humiliate" Catalonia and an "at-

tack on democracy." He called on the regional parliament to "debate and decide on the attempt to wipe out our self-government and our democracy, and act accordingly."

Puigdemont called Rajoy's move the "worst attack" on Catalan people and institutions since Gen. Francisco Franco's abolishment of Catalonia's regional government in 1939.

Barcelona mayor Ada Colau, who opposes independence without a valid referendum, called Rajoy's measures "a serious attack" on self-government in Catalonia. Others went further. Catalan parliament speaker Carme Forcadell accused Spain's central authorities of carrying out a coup.

"Mariano Rajoy has announced a de facto coup d'état with the goal of ousting a democratically elected government," Forcadell said, calling it "an authoritarian blow within a member of the European Union."

## 54 Egyptian police killed in ambush, say officials

**CAIRO** (AP)—At least 54 policemen, including 20 officers and 34 conscripts, were killed when a raid on a militant hideout southwest of Cairo was ambushed, officials said Saturday. The ensuing firefight was one of the deadliest for Egyptian security forces in recent years.

Two police officials told The Associated Press that the exchange of fire began late Friday in the al-Wahat al-Bahriya area in Giza province, about 135 kilometers (84 miles) southwest of Cairo.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

The firefight began when security forces acting on intelligence moved against a militants' hideout in the area. Backed by armored personnel carriers and led by senior counterterrorism officers, the police contingent drew fire and rocket-propelled grenades, according to the officials.

The officials said what happened next is not clear, but added that the force likely ran out of ammunition and that the militants captured several policemen and later killed them.

The officials said the police force appeared to have fallen into a carefully planned ambush set up by

the militants. The death toll could increase, they added.

Those killed included two police brigadier-generals, a colonel and 10 lieutenant colonels.

Egypt's Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, announced a much lower death toll, saying in a statement read over state television that 16 were killed in the shootout. It added that 15 militants were killed or injured, later releasing photos of some of them.

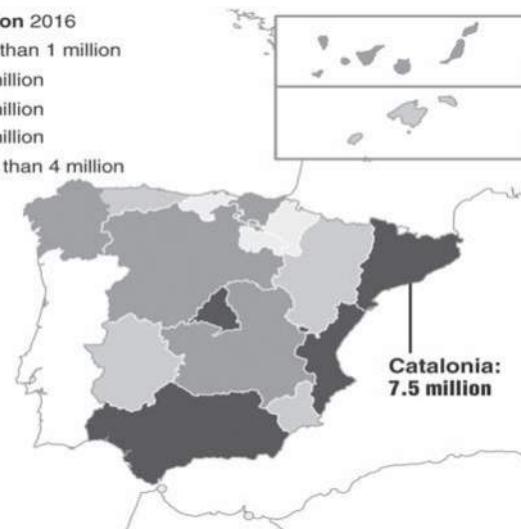
The last time Egypt's security forces suffered such a heavy loss of life was in July 2015 when militants from the extremist Islamic State group carried out a series of coordinated attacks, including suicide bombings, against army and police positions in the Sinai peninsula, killing at least 50. However, the army said only 17 soldiers and over 100 militants were killed.

An official statement issued Saturday said Friday's incident would be investigated, suggesting that the heavy death toll may have been partially caused by incompetence, intelligence failures or lack of coordination. The officials said prosecutors will look into whether the police's counterterrorism agents failed to inform the military of the operation or include them.

### Spain and Catalonia

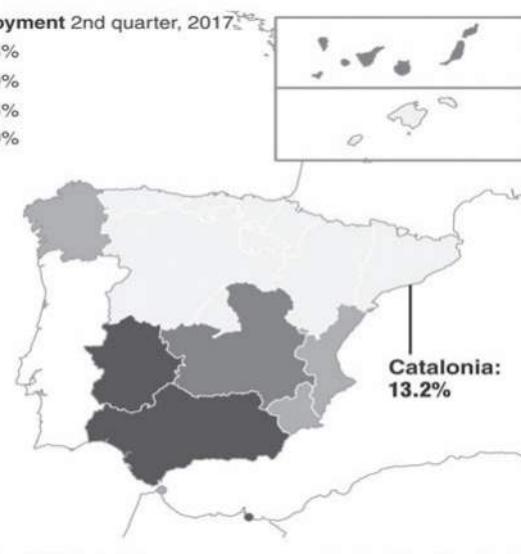
#### Population 2016

Less than 1 million
1-2 million
2-3 million
3-4 million
More than 4 million



#### Unemployment 2nd quarter, 2017

10-15%
15-20%
20-25%
25-30%



Source: National Statistics Institute

Graphic: Tribune News Service

After a special Cabinet session to derail Catalonia's independence movement, Rajoy said he wants the country's Senate to allow central ministers to take over the jobs of all senior members of the Catalan government, including con-

trol over the regional police, finances and the public media.

Rajoy is also seeking the Senate's approval to assume the power to call a regional election — something that only Catalonia's top leader can do now.

## Foreigners who joined IS faced almost certain death in Raqqa

**PARIS** (AP)—The forces fighting the remnants of the Islamic State group in Syria have tacit instructions on dealing with the foreigners who joined the extremist group by the thousands: Kill them on the battlefield.

As they made their last stand in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, an estimated 300 extremists holed up in and around a sports stadium and a hospital argued among themselves about whether to surrender, according to Kurdish commanders leading the forces that closed in. The final days were brutal—75 coalition airstrikes in 48 hours and a flurry of desperate IS car bombs that were easily spotted in the sliver of devastated landscape still under militant control.

No government publicly expressed concern about the fate of its citizens who left and joined the Islamic State fighters plotting attacks at home and abroad. In France, which

U.S.-backed Syrian forces say they have liberated city from Islamic militants



Source: AP

Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

has suffered repeated violence claimed by the Islamic State — including the Nov. 13, 2015, attacks in Paris — Defense Minister Florence Parly was among the few to say it aloud.

"If the jihadis perish in this fight, I would say that's for the best," Parly told Europe 1 radio last week.

Those were the orders, ac-

The vice president of the Senate says a session next Friday will vote on the measures. Conservative senator Pedro Sanz told reporters a special commission of 27 senators will make a first assessment of the measures Tuesday. He said Puigdemont can appeal the moves by appearing before the commission before noon Thursday or by sending an envoy.

Rajoy's ruling Popular Party has an absolute majority in the chamber and is expected to receive wide support from opposition senators for measures to protect Spanish unity.

In response, protesters wrapped in red-and-yellow Catalan flags flooded the streets of central Barcelona on Saturday, holding up signs calling for freedom.

About 450,000 people joined the protest, according to police, although an anti-secession group put the number at 85,000. The demonstration had originally been called to protest the detention of two pro-independence activists who are awaiting possible sedition charges, but it turned into an outcry over Rajoy's takeover move.

"We are here because the Spanish government made a coup without weapons against the Catalan people and their government institutions," said Joan Portet, a 58-year-old protester.

Rajoy said he is using Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution in order to "restore normalcy" in the country, which faces its most grave institutional crisis

in decades with Catalonia's independence movement. He said a new regional election in Catalonia should be held in the next six months.

"There is no country in the world ready to allow this kind of situation within its borders," Rajoy said. "It is my wish to call an election as soon as normality is restored."

Article 155 allows central authorities to intervene when one of Spain's 17 autonomous regions fails to comply with the law. It's never been applied since the 1978 Constitution was adopted.

The slow-burning constitutional crisis over secession escalated this month when regional government officials held a disputed independence referendum on Oct. 1. They then declared that the result — strongly in favor of independence — gave them a legal basis for separating from Spain even though the vote itself had numerous problems.

The country's Constitutional Court has so far ruled against all moves toward secession, including the Catalan referendum.

Albert Rivera, head of the pro-business Citizens party, said he backed Rajoy's measures because Catalonia needs to restore legal security so companies can remain in the region. Hundreds of companies have transferred their registered headquarters out of Catalonia to other areas in Spain, fearing the chaos that independence — or the fight over it — could bring.

## Foreigners who joined IS faced almost certain death in Raqqa

cording to the U.S.

"Our mission is to make sure that any foreign fighter who is here, who joined ISIS from a foreign country and came into Syria, they will die here in Syria," said Brett McGurk, the top U.S. envoy for the anti-IS coalition, in an interview with Dubai-based Al-Aan television.

"So if they're in Raqqa, they're going to die in Raqqa," he said.

The coalition has given names and photos to the Kurdish fighters to identify the foreign jihadis, who are seen as a threat back home and a burden on their justice systems, according to a commander with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. The commander said his U.S.-backed fighters are checking for wanted men among the dead or the few foreigners among the captured.

An official with the powerful YPG, the backbone of the SDF that also runs the lo-

cal security and intelligence branches, said foreigners who decided to fight until the end will be "eliminated." For the few prisoners, the Kurds try to reach out to the home countries, "and we try to hand them in. But many would not want to take their (detainees)," he said. Both men spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive issue with reporters.

No country will admit to refusing to take back citizens who joined the Islamic State, including women and their children. But few are making much of an effort to recover them.

In Iraq, hundreds of Islamic State fighters have surrendered or have been taken into custody, and their families have been rounded up into detention camps. The men are put on trial and face the death penalty if convicted of terrorism charges — even if they are foreigners. One Russian fighter has already been hanged.

# Focus

**HOUSTON**—Sitting on Mary Maddox's back porch, which flooded with 22 inches of water when Hurricane Harvey hit nearly two months ago, is a Lady of the Night plant from Puerto Rico that a friend gave her. Ever since Hurricane Maria ravaged the island, she says, she has paused at the blooming plant when she passes it, rubbing a leaf and saying a prayer for those still without water or electricity.

Often, the prayer is accompanied by frustration with President Trump, whom she voted for and who visited this neighborhood after Harvey.

"He really made me mad," said Maddox, 70, who accused Trump of trying to pit those on the mainland against Puerto Ricans, even though they're all Americans.

"I don't know," said her husband, Fred Maddox, 75. "I think he's trying."

He continued: "It's a problem, but they need to handle it. It shouldn't be up to us, really. I don't think so. They're sitting back, they're taking the money, they're taking a little under the table. He's trying to wake them up: Do your job. Be responsible."

The divide in the Maddox household is one playing out across the country, as those who voted for the president debate how much support the federal government should give Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory without a voting member of Congress that is not allowed to vote in presidential elections.

Some supporters of the president, like Fred Maddox, agree with Trump that Puerto Rico's infrastructure was frail before the storm; that the crisis was worsened by a lack of leadership there; and that the federal government should limit its involvement in the rebuilding effort, which will likely cost billions of dollars. But others, like Mary Maddox, are appalled by how the president talks about Puerto Rico and say the United States has a moral obligation to take care of its citizens.

A survey released last week by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that a majority of Americans believe that the federal government has been too slow to respond in Puerto Rico and that the island still isn't getting the help it needs. But the results largely broke along party lines: While nearly three-quarters of Democrats said the federal government isn't doing enough, almost three-quarters of Republicans said it is.

It has been two months since Hurricane Harvey hit

Texas and Gulf Coast states, and more than a month since Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico.

On Oct. 3—two weeks after the storm—Trump toured a neighborhood outside San Juan, Puerto Rico, and has repeatedly proclaimed, against much evidence, that his administration had a "tremendous" response to Maria. He gave his administration a "10" during a White House appearance with Puerto Rico's governor this week. "I think we did a fantastic job, and we're being given credit," he said.

In fact, conditions remain dire throughout much of the island. Nearly 80 percent of Puerto Ricans still lack electricity, and 30 percent do not have access to clean drinking water.

Here in the Maddoxes' neighborhood of Sageglen, by contrast, life is slowly returning to normal. On Sept. 2, just after the storm, Trump briefly toured Sageglen—a middle-class enclave on the southern edge of Houston—and announced in a cul-de-sac piled with Sheetrock debris and trash bags: "These are people that have done a fantastic job holding it together."

Hogg and his wife, Patsy Hogg, have had flood insurance for decades after watching water come dangerously close to flooding the first floor of their two-story home soon after they moved to the neighborhood in the late 1970s. They now pay about \$450 per year.

Ramirez and her husband also said they thought that they had flood insurance on their home, which they bought a year ago, only to learn weeks after the storm that they did not.

To Ramirez, the role of the

government is to broadly coordinate relief efforts and ensure that insurance companies are fulfilling their obligations to policyholders, but that people should take personal responsibility for their property or look to churches or charities for assistance.

"Do other people think that other people should pay for me to fix my house? Because it's not their fault that I flooded," said Ramirez, taking a break from sorting through soggy research documents in her garage.

Ramirez, who describes herself as a "throw-the-dice-type voter," said she reluctantly voted for Trump in November—although her support deepened after meeting Trump in her cul-de-sac about a month ago.

"In person, he's totally different than on TV, and he gave us just such a feeling of confidence, like we weren't forgotten about," said Ramirez, who has one grown daughter. "He talked directly at a lot of people in the crowd, and his word for me was: 'Don't lose hope, you're going to be all right.'"

Ramirez worries that when the government makes money easily available after a natural disaster, there's an opportunity for corruption and a chance that some people will take more than they need. And she thinks that media coverage of the crisis in Puerto Rico has lacked context, especially in reporting that nearly all of the island is still without electricity.

"Guess what? There's a big chunk of the population that lives without electricity all the time," Ramirez said, saying she was sharing the experiences of a friend who has family on the island.

Hogg, 76, nodded his head

**AP**  
People try to recover their belongings and start rebuilding their house that was destroyed by Hurricane Maria, in Morovis, Puerto Rico, Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.

## Many Trump voters who got hurricane relief in Texas aren't sure Puerto Ricans should



for him every day."

The couple agrees that the president needs to be more careful with what he says on Twitter, especially when it comes to Puerto Rico.

But David Hogg, a retired electrical engineer who once worked at NASA, also said that Puerto Ricans' "lack of responsibility is not an emergency on my part." The same goes for Texans without flood insurance, he said.

His wife frowned, stared at him and asked: "So you have no mercy?"

"Uh-uh. No mercy," he said. "They should do what I do: Spend the money, get insurance."

Patsy Hogg said one of their friends at their Baptist church, a retired single woman, didn't have flood insurance when her two-story townhouse flooded and that FEMA quickly provided her with some money.

"I was glad that they did that. That made me feel good," Patsy Hogg said. "She's certainly not destitute, but I'm just really glad that they did that. If that's my tax dollars at work, I'm okay with that."

She then came to her husband's defense: "And he's not really as hardhearted as he sounds. He was very glad when he learned that they had given her money."

The Maddoxes, who live in the next cul-de-sac over from the Hogg's, were away from home when Trump visited. They struggled to get back into the neighborhood until after his motorcade had left.

The couple, both "cradle Catholics" and longtime Republicans, cannot remember a time when they disagreed about politics, like they do now. Mary Maddox has hit the point where she believes Trump needs to be impeached and replaced with someone who will unite and heal the country.

"I get so disgusted," she said, sitting at her dining room table. "He is like a 13-year-old girl, tweeting and everything. I just want him to act his age and be nice to people and bring the country together. I voted for the man, but I'm just—I want our country to be friendly."

Fred Maddox, who is retired from inspecting commercial airline planes, says he doesn't agree with many of the things Trump flippantly says, but he still believes in the president and would vote for him again. He likes having a businessman in office, especially one who's not afraid to speak the painful truth—even if that means publicly calling out Puerto Rican officials during a crisis.

"It's time," he said, "we had someone in there to fight for us."

# Health & Fitness

# Kettlebell training rings true; Weights offer variety and a workout for all parts of the body

By JOANNE KEMPINGER DEMSKI  
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/TNS

**W**hat's round and has a flat bottom? You?

If that's the case, grab a similarly shaped kettlebell and work hard as this old standby helps transform you into a lean, mean exercise machine.

Kettlebells resemble cannon balls with handles, and they can be used to do a wide variety of exercises that hit the entire body and work the cardiovascular system.

They date back hundreds of years to Russia, said Ryan Toshner, a certified kettlebell instructor in Brookfield, Wis. Kettlebells were popular in the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s, then fizzled out, but are now returning to popularity, he said.

These days kettlebells are being used in personal training, as part of some group fitness classes, and in classes devoted just to kettlebells.

And exercisers are loving it.

Kettlebell workouts are different from traditional free weights and machines, they're fun and they have variety, Toshner said.

Women especially like that the kettlebell moves hit so many lower body muscles—specifically hamstrings and glutes.

"The ratio of women to men in my classes is 70 to 30. But guys who get into it find out you can get really, really strong," he said. "And once people do it they start to realize how quickly they can get results."

Shannon Lutze, 32, a financial planner in Milwaukee, said she has been taking classes with Toshner at his fitness center, TNT Performance, since March and has seen great results.

She lost 10 pounds the first five to six weeks, her fat percentage went from 30 to 21 in about three months, and she saw major changes in her lower body.

"My muscle mass increased and my fat percentage decreased. And I found I could fit back into my old jeans—that was the biggest change," she said.

Lutze said she previously did Pilates or weight training classes about three times a week.

"Before, I did one muscle group at a time for the most part. In these classes you're working multiple muscle groups and also doing cardio, which is why I think it's so effective," Lutze said.

## NOTICE THE CHANGES

Toshner, who opened his fitness center in January, said he also made gains when he started working with the bells.

"I was a gym rat before. I used traditional



MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT

Meagan Pollack displays a 12-kilogram kettlebell. Kettlebells resemble cannon balls with handles, and they can be used to do a wide variety of exercises that hit the entire body and work the cardiovascular system.

weights," he said. "I'm stronger now and in better shape. There are things I can do now that I never thought about doing three years ago."

He is a strength and conditioning specialist certified with the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Training with kettlebells burns 60 percent more calories than traditional weight lifting, according to research by Michele Olson, professor of exercise science at the Human Performance Lab at Auburn University in Montgomery, Ala.

Because many exercises can be done with either the kettlebells or free weights, she created a workout video in which exercisers can use either piece of equipment.

National fitness expert Keli Roberts said kettlebells improve "functional total body movement and strength in terms of power endurance," and are good for balance, stabilization and cardiovascular conditioning.

She said she especially enjoys the power and ballistic movements because they "have good transfer into movements you would do in real life. They're good for you because people have trouble getting off the floor," she said.

She added that kettlebell workouts are suitable for exercisers of all levels because they can choose from a variety of moves and poundage. She teaches seminars titled "KettleBell Ultimate Body Detonation" and has a kettlebell exercise video.

When he works with new members, Toshner said he always makes sure they know how to do



MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT  
Ryan Toshner demonstrates "the swing" with a 20-kilogram kettlebell.

the moves correctly and that they use weights appropriate to their fitness level.

He said the bells come in different sizes and are often weighed in kilograms rather than pounds. At his gym the lightest is the 4k (9 pounds), but they can run as high as 48k (106 pounds). Depending on the moves, one or two kettlebells can be used.

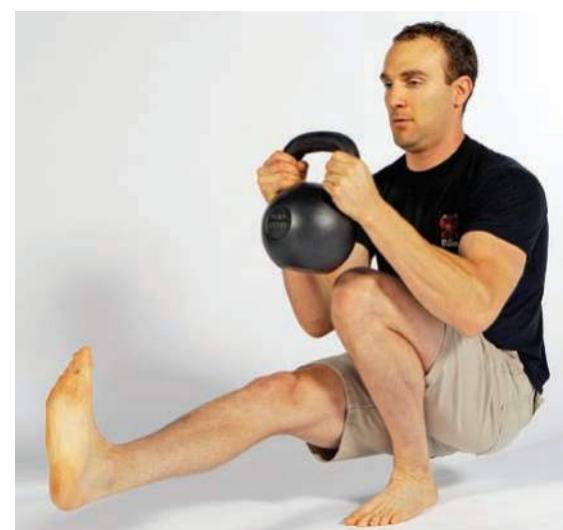
"Women will typically start with an 8k and progress to 12k or 16k. Men usually start with 16k and progress to 20k or 24k," he said.

## HOW TO USE THEM

Examples of moves that might be done in a workout include the Turkish get-up, the pistol and the swing.

In the Turkish get-up, exercisers start on the floor, gradually move to standing position, then gradually return to the floor. Toshner said it takes 30 seconds to do one repetition because it consists of a series of moves that hit all the muscles in the body.

The pistol is an advanced move that hits



MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT  
Ryan Toshner demonstrates "the pistol" with a 24-kilogram kettlebell.

quadriceps, works balance and requires lots of hamstring strength. It is similar to doing a squat with one leg, while the other leg is extended.

When doing the swing, exercisers swing a kettlebell between their legs using momentum—something not typically recommended in other forms of exercise. This exercise also works all the muscles in the body with a focus on hamstrings and glutes.

It builds strength and stamina. "Fifteen to 20 swings and your heart rate is up," he said.

But when using momentum in the swing or other kettlebell exercises, it's always done in a controlled fashion, he cautioned. "Control is the big thing. Fast doesn't mean sloppy. This is all about being strong and being stable and doing things safely."

Another break from the norm is that in these classes there are no mirrors and you don't have to wear shoes because bare feet help you balance.

"We don't use mirrors because we want exercisers to develop body awareness by concentrating on how their bodies feel. They adjust their moves by how they feel, not by what they are seeing," he said.

Because these exercises are so different, getting professional help is a must, said Roberts.

"You should make sure you do it correctly. Done incorrectly, it can hurt you, especially when you start to do power movements," she said. "Your posture and alignment has to be perfect. There is not a huge margin for error."

## Healthy Living

# To lose weight – relax

*Long-term stress causes chemical changes that make it harder to lose extra weight.*

## More cortisol ...

- More of this hormone increases appetite, fat around the waist and cravings for fatty, sugary foods

## ... and less serotonin

- When the brain has less of this neurotransmitter, we crave nicotine, alcohol or high-calorie foods

Source: Suhr Institute,  
TNS Illustration Bank



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# Life & Style

## Chinese propaganda faces stiff competition from celebrities

**HONG KONG (AP)**—When the propaganda film, “The Founding of an Army,” hit theaters in China recently, the reaction wasn’t quite what the ruling Communist Party might have hoped for.

Instead of inspiring an outpouring of nationalism and self-sacrifice for the state, it was roundly mocked for trying to lure a younger audience by casting teen idols as revolutionary party leaders.

Viewers more used to seeing the idols play love interests in light-hearted soap operas responded to the film by projecting “modern-day romantic narratives on the founding fathers of the nation,” said Hung Huang, a well-known social commentator based in Beijing. “It was hilarious.”

While China’s resurgent Communist Party once pushed its policies on an unquestioning public, it now struggles to compete for attention with the country’s booming entertainment industry and the celebrity culture it has spawned.

“Chinese people are increasingly ignoring party propaganda and are much more interested in movie stars, who represent a new lifestyle and more exciting aspirations,” said Willy Lam, an expert on Chinese politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

### George R.R. Martin mixes business, politics at film forum

**SANTAFE, N.M. (AP)**—Author and film producer George R. R. Martin waded into the politics of movie-industry tax breaks on Thursday while endorsing a prominent Democratic candidate for governor of New Mexico.

Martin, a longtime Santa Fe resident and author of fantasy novels behind the “Game of Thrones” television series, made a plea to raise or eliminate New Mexico’s \$50 million annual limit on the state’s tax incentive



In this Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017 photo, a woman walks past an advertisement featuring teen idol Lu Han, also known as China’s Justin Bieber, in Beijing, China. AP

for film production.

At an hour-long forum about New Mexico’s film industry, Martin sat alongside Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democratic candidate for governor in 2018 who this week announced she would seek to expand tax incentives for film and television production and look for ways to encourage the construction of new production studio space.

Martin described a cutthroat competitive environment of

should embrace.

Authorities have responded by taking aim at everything from gossip websites to soap opera story lines to celebrity salaries. Instead of selfish, rich stars, the state is promoting performers who are all about patriotism, purity and other values that support

the party’s legitimacy.

The results have at best been mixed and at worst ham-fisted and out of touch.

One problem is that the party’s values often clash with what young Chinese want to watch, according to Hung. Among the more popular shows watched by Chinese

have to get rid of this (state tax incentive) cap.”

Martin quipped that he like caps—“but only on my head.” He said that limiting the tax credit is “like saying, ‘We have enough jobs, we don’t need any more jobs. We’re going to cap the number of jobs?’”

Earlier this year, a bill to raise the annual limit on the film tax credit and link future annual increase to inflation failed to win approval in the Democratic-led Legislature.

the film industry, and his own budding efforts to attract more movie production to Santa Fe by offering low-cost office space at a building provided to him posthumously by an estate. Filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen currently are utilizing the building through Martin’s nonprofit Stagecoach Foundation.

“We’re in competition with Texas and Arizona and Utah,” Martin said. “How do we compete? ... Obviously the incentives are a big part of it. We

man, the film’s producer.

The filmmakers, from Adventure Film Productions, said they got their break out of the blue: An old contact approached them with a tale of a death-bed confession. They eventually found a second source whose information dove-tailed with the first.

Their conclusion: Thompson was slain by rebels from the Communist Party of Malaya who grew suspicious after he arrived in the jungle and began requesting a meeting with the party’s secre-

tary-general, at the time Malaysia’s most-wanted man. Rather than vacationing, the filmmakers said, Thompson was on what turned out to be a final, fatal mission.

Broman, who has decades of Asia experience as a photographer, U.S. marine and diplomat, said the conclusion is unequivocal: “Jim was never going to be found. He was murdered.”

The filmmakers acknowledged the murder theory’s not new, but they believe their version is more substantial.

youth are those that center on palace intrigue, martial arts fantasies, high school romances or single, independent women.

“While the government could once dictate to young people what they should value and how they should lead their lives, they find themselves completely without the tools to do that now,” she said.

In the 1970s, the state was able to promote people seen as paragons of youthful devotion and selflessness, but Hung said that no longer works because young Chinese—like their counterparts in the West—now prefer to follow celebrity gossip and have the tools with which to do so.

Just this month, teen idol Lu Han, also known as China’s Justin Bieber, announced he had a girlfriend, triggering a flood of shares, responses and 4 million “likes” within a few hours that briefly crashed the country’s popular Weibo microblog service.

### Norman Rockwell’s three sons seek to halt sale of his artworks

**BOSTON (AP)**—Norman Rockwell’s three sons were among several people who went to court on Friday seeking to halt a museum’s plans to sell 40 works of art, including two by him.

A complaint seeking a temporary restraining order filed in Berkshire Superior Court alleges the board of trustees at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield contracted with Sotheby’s for a public auction of the works before it announced its plans publicly, acted in breach of its fiduciary duties and trust and acted without legal authority to sell the art.

The planned sale is against Massachusetts laws establishing the museum, which requires the museum to maintain any gifts it receives “for the people of Berkshire County and the general public,” the complaint says.

“Once sold, it is highly unlikely that any of the pieces will remain in Berkshire County or in a public institution where they can be seen and enjoyed,” the complaint says.

Besides Thomas, Jarvis and Peter Rockwell, the plaintiffs include two local artists and several members of the museum. They are represented by the Boston law firm Foley Hoag LLP.

The museum has consistently stood by its decision to sell the art.

“We believe we have strong

legal grounds for our deaccessioning and we are confident in our new vision plan which will allow this important local museum to continue to contribute to the educational and cultural life of this region for another century,” trustees president Elizabeth McGraw said in a statement on Friday.

The museum came under intense national and local criticism after it announced in July that it was auctioning the art.

The American Alliance of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors said in a joint statement that the sale violated a sacred museum rule that collections are not to be sold to pay bills.

The works for sale include Rockwell’s “Shaftsbury Blacksmith Shop” and “Shuffleton’s Barbershop,” both of which the illustrator gave as gifts to the museum when he lived in nearby Stockbridge. Works by Alexander Calder, Albert Bierstadt and George Henry Durie also are on the auction block.

Museum trustees and officials say the museum is in dire financial straits and may close for good if it doesn’t sell the works. They say it is hoped that the sale will raise as much as \$60 million, which will be used to boost the endowment by \$40 million, with the other \$20 million being used to renovate the museum as it changes its mission to focus more on natural history and science.

### New film claims to have solved Jim Thompson mystery

**BANGKOK (AP)**—A new documentary is set to stir fresh debate over one of Asia’s most enduring mysteries: What happened to Jim Thompson, Thailand’s legendary silk king.

The former American intelligence officer turned textile tycoon went for a walk in the Malaysian jungle 50 years ago and never returned. Despite a massive search, no trace of Thompson was ever found. One of the most prominent Westerners in Asia had simply vanished.

Theories abound: He was

killed by a tiger; he got lost and perished in deep forest; he disappeared himself as part of a political intrigue. Those behind the documentary say they have new evidence that Thompson was killed.

Their film, “Who Killed Jim Thompson,” premiered Oct. 20 at the Eugene International Film Festival in the U.S. state of Oregon.

“There’s been all sorts of theories and mostly silly theories, but I’m hoping that this will put some closure to, you know, the whole story,” said Barry Bro-

# John McCain memoir, 'The Restless Wave,' coming in April

**NEW YORK** (AP)—An upcoming memoir from Sen. John McCain has taken on new meaning since he first decided to write it.

"The Restless Wave: Good Times, Just Causes, Great Fights, and Other Appreciations" is scheduled to come out in April, Simon & Schuster told The Associated Press on Friday. The publisher quietly signed up the book in February, without any formal announcement. In July, McCain disclosed he had been diagnosed with brain cancer and last month he said the prognosis was "very poor."

McCain, 81, was re-elected to a sixth term in the Senate in 2016. "This memoir will be about

## UK paper sorry for airbrushing out Solange Knowles's braids

**LONDON** (AP)—Britain's Evening Standard newspaper has apologized to Solange Knowles for digitally altering an image of the singer on the cover of its magazine.

Knowles—who had released a song called "Don't Touch My Hair"—complained on Instagram that an elaborate braided crown on her head had been digitally removed from the cover photo.

The magazine article featured the singer talking about

what matters most to him, and I hope it will be regarded as the work of an American hero," said Jonathan Karp, president and publisher of Simon & Schuster's flagship imprint.

The book is expected to begin in 2008, when the Arizona Republican lost to Barack Obama in the presidential election, and will include his "no-holds-barred opinions" on last year's campaign and on current events in Washington. McCain has been a sharp critic of President Donald Trump, a fellow Republican, and was a key opponent last summer of GOP efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Earlier this week, McCain denounced "half-baked, spurious

her experiences spending time at her mother's salon as a child. She also discussed braiding's importance to her and praised it as "its own art form."

The magazine said in a statement Saturday that the photo was altered for "layout purposes" but it was sorry for the offense caused. The statement said: "Plainly we made the wrong call and we have offered our unreserved apologies to Solange."

## Foo Fighters postpone Kentucky show at last minute

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** (AP)— Foo Fighters postponed a concert in Kentucky, hours before the band was expected to take the stage, because of an unspecified family emergency.

The band's public relations firm said in a news release Saturday afternoon that the concert at Lexington's Rupp Arena, which was scheduled for later that night, will now take place on May 1.

No further details were given about the family emergency.

Tickets for the Oct. 21 show will be honored at the May 1 show. Fans can also opt to receive a refund.

The Grammy-winning rock band has been on tour to support its new album, "Concrete and Gold." It is scheduled to play in Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday.

nationalism cooked up by people who would rather find scapegoats than solve problems," remarks widely taken as criticism of Trump and such allies as former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon.

"Candid, pragmatic, and always fascinating, John Mc-

Cain holds nothing back in his latest memoir," according to the publisher.

The memoir already has a notable change: The original title was "It's Always Darkest Before It's Totally Black," an expression McCain likes to cite.

"The Restless Wave" reunites

the weeks since The New York Times and The New Yorker published exposés alleging decades of sexual misconduct by Weinstein.

The group said it filed the charges on Oct. 13.

Weinstein has been expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Producers Guild and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in

the weeks since The New York Times and The New Yorker published exposés alleging decades of sexual misconduct by Weinstein.

The Television Academy, which bestows Emmy awards, said a disciplinary hearing set for November could lead to termination of his membership.

More than 40 women have accused the 65-year-old Weinstein of harassment or abuse.

him with longtime collaborator Mark Salter and with Karp, his longtime editor. The three worked together on McCain's million-selling "Faith of My Fathers," which came out in 1999, and on such subsequent releases as "Worth the Fighting For" and "Why Courage Matters."

In a recent email, Salter told the AP that there was "still a ways to go" before the book's completion, but that McCain was "hard at it." The original focus was "on international issues, his experiences overseas and movements and people he's supported over the years."

## Directors guild files disciplinary charges against Weinstein

Actresses including Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Lupita Nyong'o have accused Weinstein of harassment, while actresses Asia Argento and Rose McGowan said he raped them.

Weinstein has denied all allegations of non-consensual sex.

The directors guild issued a statement condemning sexual harassment in general following a board meeting New York on Saturday.

"There must be no tolerance for such deplorable abuses of power," the statement said. "This isn't about one person. We must recognize sexual harassment is endemic in our society, and painfully, in our industry."

The group added that "every individual has the right to a safe workplace."

An attorney for Weinstein did not immediately return a call seeking comment.



**READY FOR HALLOWEEN** AP  
This Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 photo shows a replica four-legged All Terrain Armored Transport, or AT-AT walker in Parma, Ohio. Owner Nick Meyer tells Cleveland.com he used wood, hard foam and plastic barrels. He says he enjoys the "Star Wars" movies but isn't a fanatic and simply thought the display would be unique. Meyer, 39, spent about \$1,500 and 10 hours a weekend for half a year to build the replica. He built it with his carpenter friend Anthony Paroda, and it's been such a success that spectators are donating money for them to build another display next year. At 19 feet, the replica is nearly as tall as Meyer's home in Parma, a Cleveland suburb.

## Boyfriend shows no interest in expanding family of three

**D**EAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Kevin," and I have been together for five years and have a 4-year-old son we are crazy about. For the past six months, I have been begging Kevin to have another child. Some days he's all for it, but then he changes his mind and starts asking me to give him a good reason why we should. No matter what I say, he always says I want another child "just to have another." What can I tell him to make him change his mind?

SUFFERING WITH BABY FEVER

**DEAR SUFFERING:** A reason that occurs to me would be that you do not want your little boy to grow up as an only child.

However, your boyfriend may prefer not to enlarge your family because he doesn't want to be financially responsible for more than one child. Instead of trying to sell him on the idea, perhaps you should ask him to give you some good reasons why he's not as enthusiastic as you are about it. The answer may be that he's not as fully committed to your relationship as you are.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend, "Missy," who is "nose blind" when it comes to her pets. She has three enormous dogs who have the run of her house and car.

The first time we carpooled together, the smell in her car was repulsive. The passenger side was filthy, stained and full of dog hair. I don't have pets, so I suspect I may be a little more sensitive than the average person. But not wanting to hurt her feelings, I bit my tongue and got through the ride as best I could.

Lately, I have been driving us to the events we attend together, and I really don't mind doing so. In fact, I prefer it. But she has started asking me why and insists that she'll drive next time. What do I tell her without hurting her feelings?

DOGGED IN COLORADO

**DEAR DOGGED:** Tell your friend the truth—that although she is used to the dogs' odor and the hair they shed, you would rather drive than have to deal with it.

**DEAR ABBY:** We bought a vacation home last year and spent a lot of money remodeling it. The problem is, lots of our friends and relatives constantly ask us to use it. The upkeep costs us \$400 per month (which goes up when someone uses it). We have never charged anyone to stay there.

We are getting tired of footing the bill for other people's vacations. We wouldn't mind so much if they would offer a little money to offset the extra expenses. Is there a way we can politely ask for it? We are not wealthy, and this was a dream of

**DEAR ABBY**  
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ours. Thanks for your advice.

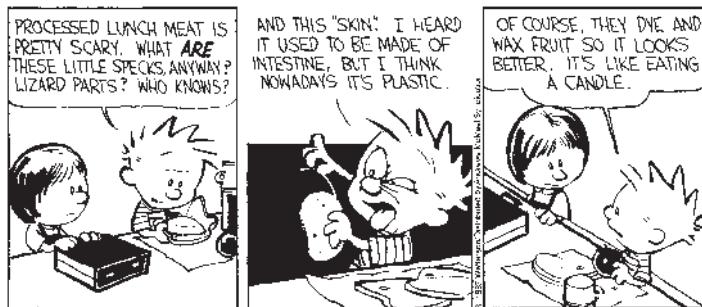
OUR DREAM IN TENNESSEE

**DEAR DREAM:** Yes, there's a way. The next time someone asks to use your vacation home say, "We'd love to let you do it, but the place costs \$400 a month in upkeep, and the expenses go up if someone is staying there. How about splitting the cost with us?" You should not be expected to pay for these people's vacations, and what you are asking is more than fair.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

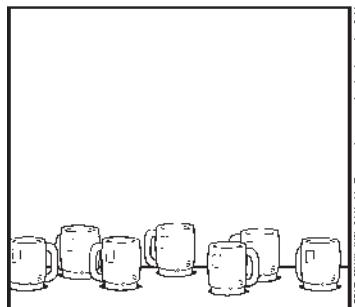
## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

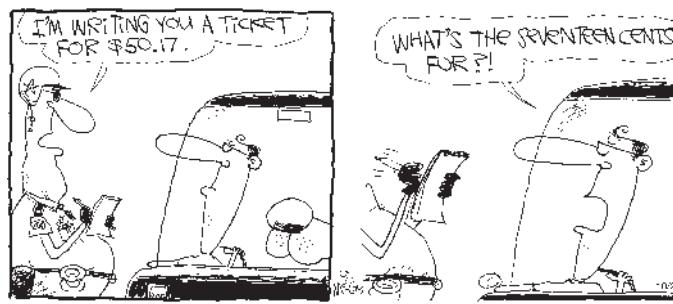


## Adam@home

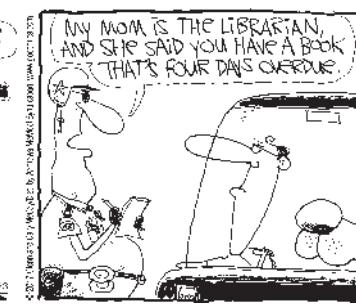


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Periodical, for short	DOWN	22	"E Pluribus —"
1 Sheepish remark	40	Ky. neighbor	2	In the style of	23 Historic region of Asia
4 Monastery VIP	41	Med. plan options	3	TV alien	27 Resistance unit
9 "2001" computer	43	Quagmire	4	Top stories?	29 Six-pack units
12 Under the weather	45	Big lizard	5	Paging devices	30 Concludes
13 Rib	47	— Paulo	6	Soap unit	32 — Sutra
14 Lab eggs	48	Scratch	7	Wicker-work	34 Pet rodent
15 Self-service hospital eatery	49	Italian restaurant	8	willow	37 "In America" writer
17 Up-to-date	54	Sub-machine gun	9	Rip to shreds	39 Small beard
18 Sass	55	Concur	10	Payments to a speaker	42 Beetle Bailey's boss
19 Goofs	56	Lennon's lady	11	Say it's so	44 Kanga's kid
21 Pedicure stone	57	Vast expanse	12	Statutes	45 Radio host
24 Contrite one	58	Category	13	Yale grad	46 Fixed look
25 — roll (winning)	59	"For shame!"	14	Coral formation	50 Prince Valiant's son
26 "No seats"		Solution time: 26 mins.	15	Bouquet	51 Hogwash
28 Quiet partner?			16		52 — and outs
31 Gone to the bottom			17		53 Fine, at NASA
33 "Quiet!"					
35 Actress Drescher					
36 Community gym sites					

Last Friday's Answer

10-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Reynolds, 41; Nancy Grace, 58; Weird Al Yankovic, 58; Dwight Yoakam, 61.

**Happy Birthday:** Change can be good if you are prepared to forge ahead. Look at your options and choose to take on projects or endeavors that fit into your plans. Getting involved in something unfamiliar to you may be intriguing, but will require time and patience. Take precautions or you'll be at a loss because you've taken on too much, too fast. Your numbers are 2, 15, 21, 24, 27, 33, 47.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Jump in and get things done. The experience you gain along the way will motivate you to do more. Collaborating with someone who shares your goals or interests will lead to a long-lasting friendship. Romance is on the rise. **★★★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Joint financial ventures are not looking good. Don't trust your cash with anyone or let others negotiate on your behalf. Stick to your own script and make your thoughts crystal clear. You don't have to overreact, just be up-front. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Network, enjoy friends and family, and work hard to keep your relationships running smoothly. If you offer to help someone, make sure you follow through, but don't get taken for granted. Balance and equality will be important. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Dealing with issues that affect your home and family are best done with patience and intelligence. Children will offer insight into something that you've been questioning. An opportunity to bring about change should not be ignored.

Be receptive to proposals. **★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional confusion is prevalent. Refrain from letting generosity turn into a form of persuasive manipulation. Work hard, play hard and take care of your health through exercise and proper nutrition. Physical improvements are encouraged. **★★★★★**

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Be receptive to proposals. **★★★**

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do what you say you are going to do. Your reputation will be dependent on the way you look and how you perform. It's OK to be different as long as you achieve what's expected of you. Follow your intuition. **★★★**



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refrain from overreacting or getting caught up in someone else's dilemma. Moderate spending is encouraged, along with saying "no" to temptation. Put greater emphasis on diet, exercise and maintaining good health. Personal and professional gains can be accomplished. **★★★★**



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Disillusionment will lead to confusion. Make sure you get your information straight from the source before you make a comment or get involved in something questionable. Lean toward unique opportunities and you will find a way to get ahead. **★★**

**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are informative, adaptable and unique. You are spontaneous and progressive. To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7			8				1	
	8		2	6		3		
6							8	
	4	6	3	8				
2	6			4	9			
	5	4	9	2				
1							4	
	4	9	8		7			
3			7				2	

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	1	6	4	5	8	3	2	9
8	2	5	9	3	1	7	6	4
9	4	3	7	2	6	1	8	5
3	9	2	6	4	7	5	1	8
5	8	1	2	9	3	4	7	6
6	7	4	8	1	5	2	9	3
4	5	8	1	6	2	9	3	7
1	3	7	5	8	9	6	4	2
2	6	9	3	7	4	8	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PERPETUAL BONDS

Solution: 13 letters

E	E	S	A	H	C	R	U	P	E	N	S	I	O
C	T	O	I	L	O	F	T	R	O	P	T	I	E
P	F	I	S	C	A	L	N	I	F	A	L	L	T
U	Ⓐ	Y	N	A	P	M	O	C	D	B	A	E	P
O	E	Ⓣ	S	I	S	A	B	E	I	B	A	U	K
S	V	P	Ⓔ	T	F	R	D	V	U	A	L	N	R
E	I	E	N	A	O	L	I	B	E	N	A	N	A
I	T	R	A	D	E	D	A	E	D	K	N	A	M
T	I	I	E	I	E	E	L	E	N	D	C	E	U
I	T	O	Y	N	S	B	Q	F	I	X	E	D	M
R	E	D	D	H	A	U	M	E	M	O	C	N	I
U	P	S	T	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E	A	X
C	M	U	L	T	B	L	Y	T	I	R	U	T	A
E	O	A	Y	P	E	R	C	E	N	T	R	M	E
S	C	O	N	S	L	O	S	E	V	R	E	S	R

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Last Friday's Answer: Chocolate  
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2018-CDA-01-RFP

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**PORT OF SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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# Astros beat Yankees to book World Series trip



**HOUSTON**

(AP)—Charlie Morton and Lance McCullers combined on a three-hitter, Jose Altuve and Evan Gattis homered and the Houston Astros reached the World Series, blanking the New York Yankees 4-0 Saturday night in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series.

Just four years removed from their third straight 100-loss season in 2013, the Astros shut down the Yankees for two straight games after dropping three in a row in the Bronx.

Next up for the Astros: Game 1 of the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday night. Los Angeles opened as a narrow favorite, but Houston aces Dallas Keuchel and ALCS MVP Justin Verlander will have plenty of rest before the matchup begins at Dodger Stadium.

Houston has never won even a single World Series game. The only previous time the Astros made it this far, they were a National League team when they were swept by the Chicago White Sox in 2005.

Now, manager A.J. Hinch's club has a chance to win that elusive first title, while trying to boost a region still recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

Houston improved to 6-0 at Minute Maid Park in these playoffs and became the fifth team in major league history to win a seven-game postseason series by winning all four of its home games.

Morton bounced back from a loss in Game 3 to allow two hits over five scoreless innings. Starter-turned-postseason reliever McCullers limited the Yankees to just one hit while fanning six over the next four.

Combined, they throttled the wild-card Yankees one last time in Houston. Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez and their New York teammates totaled just three runs in the four road games.

CC Sabathia entered the



Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel reacts as he scores during the fifth inning of Game 7 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the New York Yankees Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, in Houston. AP

game 10-0 with a 1.69 ERA in 13 starts this season after a Yankees loss. But he struggled with command and was gone with one out in the fourth inning.

Houston was up 2-0 in fifth when former Yankees star Brian McCann came through for the second straight game by hitting a two-run double after snapping an 0-for-20 skid with an ground-rule RBI double to give Houston its first run on Friday night.

The Yankees, trying to reach the World Series for the first time since 2009, lost an elimination game for the first time this season after winning their first four in these playoffs. New York struggled on the road this postseason, with this loss dropping the team to 1-6.

After going 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position through the first three innings, the Astros got on the board with no outs in the fourth with

the 405-foot shot by Gattis off Sabathia which made it 1-0.

Altuve launched a ball off Tommy Kahnle into the seats in right field with one out in the fifth for his fifth homer this postseason. It took a while for him to see that it was going to get out, and held onto his bat until he was halfway to first base before flipping it and trotting around the bases as chants of "MVP" rained down on him.

Altuve finished 8 for 25 with two homers and four RBI in the ALCS after hitting .533 with three homers and four RBI in the ALDS against Boston.

Carlos Correa and Yuli Gurriel hit consecutive singles after that before Kahnle struck out Gattis. McCann's two-strike double, which rolled into the corner of right field, cleared the bases to push the lead to 4-0. Gurriel slid to avoid the tag and remained on his belly in a swimming pose

at the plate for a few seconds after he was called safe.

It was just the second Game 7 in franchise history for the Astros, who dropped Game 7 to the Cardinals in the 2004 NLCS 13 years ago today.

Sabathia allowed five hits and one run while walking three in 3 1/3 innings. He wasn't nearly as sharp as he was in a Game 3 win and just 36 of the 65 pitches he threw were strikes.

Morton got into trouble in

the fifth, and the Yankees had runners at the corners with one out. Bregman fielded a grounder hit by Todd Frazier and made a perfect throw home to allow McCann to tag Greg Bird and preserve Houston's lead. McCann held onto the ball despite Bird's cleat banging into his forearm. Chase Headley grounded out after that to end the inning.

A night after Springer kept Frazier from extra-bases with

a leaping catch, Judge returned the favor on a ball hit by Yuli Gurriel. Judge sprinted, jumped and reached into the stands to grab his long fly ball before crashing into the wall and falling to the ground for the first out of the second inning.

Springer had another nifty catch in this one, jumping in front of Marwin Gonzalez at the wall in left-center to grab a ball hit by Bird for the first out of the seventh inning.

## Dodgers all set at home, waiting for Astros

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—No matter which opponent emerged from the seven-game AL Championship Series, the Los Angeles Dodgers could watch from home knowing they're sitting pretty.

On Saturday night, they found out who they'll play in the World Series—the Houston Astros are heading out West to face them.

The Dodgers earned a four-day break through their quick resolution of the NLCS, which ended Thursday in Chicago with Los Angeles' seventh win in eight playoff games. The extended breaks between their two brief playoff series have allowed the 104-win Dodgers to keep their starting rotation in order and on full rest, and to give plenty of recovery time to their dominant bullpen.

"It's crucial, not only in setting the rotation," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said Saturday before the Astros

beat the New York Yankees 4-0 in Game 7. "Knowing what goes into the (playoffs), to come back home and reset mentally and physically has been a huge benefit to us."

It might even be enough time for All-Star shortstop Corey Seager to return from the back injury that kept him out of the NLCS. Roberts said he is "very optimistic" Seager will be available for Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday night, but the Dodgers are unlikely to make their final decision for a few days.

"I know Corey doesn't want to be denied," Roberts said.

The benefits of the Dodgers' major league-best regular season have echoed deep into October, where they're the first team to get home-field advantage in the World Series due to their superior record since baseball dropped the All-Star Game result as the determining factor.

The Dodgers opened both

of their NL playoff series at home, and they've made only two round-trip plane flights this month, spending just a handful of nights away from home. They finished off both opponents on the road and hurried back to LA, playing only one game over the minimum necessary to reach the World Series and largely staying healthy, outside of Seager's injury.

"We're in good shape," Roberts said. "And fortunately, with the length of that (last) series, we didn't have to overuse our guys, and give our guys in the 'pen some recovery. On the position players side, everyone seems to be doing well."

Los Angeles also cruised into the postseason, essentially wrapping up its fifth straight NL West title in mid-September and comfortably holding off Cleveland for the majors' best record, even though the Dodgers weren't aggressively going for that goal.

## Astros bench coach Cora to manage Red Sox

**BOSTON** (AP)—Red Sox managerial search could be over within the next 24 hours. According sources, the Red Sox have offered the job to Astros bench coach Alex Cora. It's expected Cora will accept once the Astros' playoff run is over.

The Astros were to battle the New York Yankees in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series on Saturday night. An Astros loss would open the door for Boston to finalize and announce the deal before the World Series begins on Tuesday. An Astros win would drag things

out a little longer, though it's not expected that would alter either sides' plans.

Ken Rosenthal of The Athletic adds that the Red Sox have offered Cora a three-year deal.

The Red Sox fired John Farrell two days after being eliminated by Cora's Astros in the ALDS. President of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski seemed to zero in on the 42-year-old Cora at that very moment. The Red Sox also reportedly showed an interest in veteran manager Ron Gardenhire. Once Gardenhire accepted the Tigers job, it became

clear Cora was the choice. Though he brings no managerial experience to the table, Cora is considered a good fit for a Red Sox team with a wealth of young talent. It's similar to the Astros team he oversaw and helped mold alongside manager A.J. Hinch. Cora does have experience in Boston from his playing days. He spent four of his 14 seasons in a Red Sox uniform.

Once Cora to the Red Sox becomes official, the Nationals, Phillies and Mets will be the only remaining teams with managerial openings to fill.

# Grizzlies build big lead, hang on to top Warriors



**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—The Golden State Warriors not only lost to the Memphis Grizzlies, they lost their cool in the closing minute.

Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant both were ejected with 43 seconds left Saturday night, a fitting end to a frustrating night for Warriors in a 111-101 loss to Memphis.

"My pockets will be a lot lighter for sure," Curry said about the ejection after thinking he was fouled and throwing his mouthpiece. Durant may draw additional penalties after it appeared he possibly made an obscene gesture to the Memphis crowd.

Marc Gasol had 34 points and 14 rebounds, and the Grizzlies built a 19-point third-quarter lead over Golden State before holding on for the win. James Ennis III added 13 points, and Tyreke Evans had 12 as Memphis shot 47 percent compared to 39 percent for Golden State. The Warriors shot 12 of 38 from 3-point range.

Curry led the Warriors with 37 points, and Durant added 29 and 13 rebounds.

Curry scored on a layup with 43 seconds left to cut the Memphis lead to 107-99 -- as close as the Warriors got to Memphis in the fourth quarter. But Curry thought he was fouled on the play and threw his mouthpiece along the baseline, leading to immediate

ejection, the first in a regular season game in Curry's career.

"My frustration boiled over, did something stupid, deserved to get kicked out and that's what happened," Curry said.

But Curry denied trying to hit official Scott Wall with the throw.

"If I tried to throw it at him and hit him, I've got a pretty good aim," Curry said, adding he "would have been able to execute that."

## Magic 114, Cavaliers 93

In Cleveland, Nikola Vucevic scored 23 points and the Orlando Magic snapped a 17-game losing streak against the Cleveland Cavaliers, routing the defending Eastern Conference champions 114-93 on Saturday night.

Orlando's first win over Cleveland since Nov. 23, 2012, came in convincing fashion. The Magic never trailed and built a 21-point lead late in the first quarter. Orlando led 36-18 after the first, hitting 14 of 24 from the field.

## Jazz 96, Thunder 87

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 13 rebounds to lead Utah past Oklahoma City..

The Jazz never trailed after taking a 13-12 lead in the first quarter.

Oklahoma City's All-Star trio of Russell Westbrook, Paul George and Carmelo An-



Memphis Grizzlies forward James Ennis III (8) shoots against Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson (11) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, in Memphis, Tenn.

James Johnson scored 14 points and Kelly Olynyk added 13 for the Heat, who wasted nearly all of what was a 21-point lead before hanging on in the final moments. Josh Richardson added 12 for Miami.

Victor Oladipo scored 28 points for Indiana.

## Raptors 128, 76ers 94

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, Serge Ibaka had 21 and Toronto won its 10th straight home game over Philadelphia.

Kyle Lowry scored 17 points, Jakob Poeltl had a career-high 14 and the Raptors won for the 16th time in 17 meetings with the 76ers. The 34-point margin of victory was Toronto's biggest ever over Philadelphia, eclipsing a 32-point win on Nov. 9, 2014.

Ben Simmons had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the 76ers.

## Nuggets 96, Kings 79

In Denver, Paul Millsap had 18 points and nine rebounds in his first home game with Denver, Gary Harris scored 17 points and the Nuggets used a strong defensive effort to beat Sacramento.

Kenneth Faried had 18 points and eight rebounds and Will Barton scored 15 points to help Denver win its home opener. Rookie De'Aaron Fox led the Kings with 18 points.

## Clippers 130, Suns 88

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 29 points and eight rebounds, Patrick Beverley added 15 points and six steals, and the Los Angeles Clippers cruised to victory over the Phoenix Suns.

The Clippers took control early in the second half of their home opener and never looked back. Their starters did not play in the fourth quarter. Los Angeles also saw starting point guard Milos Teodosic carried off the floor with a foot injury.

## Super Bowl rematch doesn't have a real super look

**ATLANTA** (AP)—The rematch of the Super Bowl with a historic finish doesn't have much of a super look right now.

The Patriots are 4-2 and have not cruised in any game, mainly because of a leaky defense. The Falcons are 3-2 and easily could have one win.

Still, NBC must be salivating to have Tom Brady vs. Matt Ryan, particularly with both teams vulnerable when they don't have the ball.

And, of course, each side has memories—joyful and painful—of New England's rally from a 25-point second-half hole to win the championship in February.

"Well, I mean those games, they live with you the rest of your life—the wins and the losses," Brady says. "I mean, I think there's obviously 18 years for me. ... There's probably some games early in my career in the middle of October that I don't really remember that well, but I would say the Super Bowl ones you always remember pretty well."

Carr finished 29 for 52 for 417 yards and three touchdowns, with Amari Cooper catching 11 passes for 210 yards and two of the scores.

"I mean, there was a lot on the line. You know, it's just the reality of it. As players, you hope you're in that position. You'd

rather be in that game than not be in that game, win or lose. It's great to win and it stinks to lose, but that's playing sports."

Atlanta comes off blowing a 17-point lead and losing at home to Miami. New England was down 14-0 at the Jets before rallying to win.

"We obviously haven't played as well as we're capable of through five games," Ryan says. "But we're certainly close. We've done a lot of really good things at times."

The weekend began with the Oakland Raiders' 31-30 comeback victory over the visiting Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night.

Derek Carr threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree on the final play after the game was extended by two straight defensive holding calls.

With their season on the line following the recent slump, Carr led an 85-yard touchdown drive in the final 2:25 to give the Raiders (3-4) the thrilling comeback win that snapped a four-game losing streak.

Carr finished 29 for 52 for 417 yards and three touchdowns, with Amari Cooper catching 11 passes for 210 yards and two of the scores.

## Bucks 113, Trail Blazers 110

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 17 of his career-high 44 points in the fourth quarter, and he gave Milwaukee the lead for good on a breakaway dunk with 11 seconds left.

With Portland leading 110-109, the Trail Blazers lost the ball and Antetokounmpo's thunderous dunk put the Bucks ahead. After a timeout, Damian Lillard found Jusuf Nurkic run-

ning down the lane, but Antetokounmpo blocked his shot at the basket, sending the 7-foot center crashing to the floor.

Khris Middleton was fouled and made both free throws to close the scoring.

## Rockets 107, Mavericks 91

In Houston, James Harden scored 29 points and Houston beat Dallas in its their home opener.

Playing without point guard Chris Paul, who is week-to-week with a left knee injury, Harden frequently bulldozed his way into the paint for layups while also keeping hot from beyond the arc. Harden made six of 13 3-pointers and added seven assists in 29 minutes.

Houston improved to 3-0 for the first time since the 2014-15 season when it started 6-0. Dallas fell to 0-3 for the first time since the 2011-12

season, which followed their NBA title run in 2010-11.

Harris was one of the many Pistons who had little going to start the Pistons' second game in two nights, but they turned it around after halftime to spoil the Knicks' home opener.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 33 points, but New York fell to 0-2 after losing to former Knicks star Carmelo Anthony and Oklahoma City in its opener.

## Pistons 111, Knicks 107

In New York, Tobias Harris scored 22 of his 31 points in the second half, and Detroit erased a 21-point deficit to beat New York.

Harris was one of the many Pistons who had little going to start the Pistons' second game in two nights, but they turned it around after halftime to spoil the Knicks' home opener.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 33 points, but New York fell to 0-2 after losing to former Knicks star Carmelo Anthony and Oklahoma City in its opener.

## Heat 112, Pacers 108

In Miami, Goran Dragic scored 23 points, Dion Waiters added 19 and Miami opened its home schedule with a victory over Indiana.

## Morgan, Rapinoe lift US soccer past South Korea, 3-1

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Alex Morgan and Julie Ertz prolonged their recent scoring binges for the United States, while Megan Rapinoe showcased her knack for exposing weaknesses in even the most technically sound defenses.

Morgan scored in a fourth straight game, Ertz scored for the fourth time in five games and the U.S. beat South Korea 3-1 on Thursday night.

Rapinoe added her 34th international goal on a penalty kick that she drew. She earned

her 42nd assist on a corner kick that Ertz redirected with a diving header.

"That's what she does," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said about Rapinoe, who controlled the tempo of the friendly with ambitious, accurate passes from her position on the left wing. "She's very comfortable on that left side and is a world-class server of the ball. She continues to want more from herself because that's just the type of



player she is."

The U.S. finished with an 11-1 advantage in shots on goal, primarily because of a slew of chances created by Rapinoe.

She drew her penalty kick in the 49th minute when she pounced on a loose ball about 12 yards in front of the goal and was tripped by Ji Sohyun. Rapinoe struck her goal hard and down the middle, seemingly sensing that goal keeper Kang Gaee would cheat to

ward one side.

"Can't tell you. It's a secret," Rapinoe said about her approach to the penalty kick.

Carli Lloyd returned from a nearly 10-week absence because of ankle injury, entering the game as a substitute in the 77th minute. Her introduction drew an enthusiastic response from nearly 10,000 spectators in the Superdome.

The U.S. improved to 10-3 in 2017 as it builds toward next year's qualifying for the 2019 FIFA World Cup in France.

# Youngsters lead Bike for Life winners

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Youngsters Jerome Diyco and J.C. Ferrer ruled their respective divisions in the road bike event to lead the winners of last Saturday's Bike for Life.

Diyco bested the veteran pair of J.C. Libut and Nap Dizon in a mad rush to the finish that had three riders separated by only tenths of a second. Diyco even looked back to check how far behind him were the two about 200 meters away from the finish line.

The 17-year-old completed the 50-kilometer race, which began and ended at the south parking lot of the Pacific Island Club-Saipan with a turnaround point at Banzai Cliff, in 1:22:26.03. Diyco is only 35 milliseconds ahead of Libut (1:22:26.38), who defeated Dizon by 30 milliseconds (1:22:26.68).

The three were part of an early group of eight cyclists that broke away from the rest of the pack minutes after the starting gun. Diyco then made his move as they get past the Chalan Piao stop light.

"We stayed close at each other but when I saw that no one was trying to get ahead I tried to get into position to pull away. I slowly made my move and get away from the rest of the group," said Diyco a few minutes after cross-



JON PEREZ

Jerome Diyco, center, celebrates with J.C. Libut, left, and Nap Dizon after winning the 50-kilometer Bike For Life last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

ing the finish line.

Ferrer, who also won her age group in last year's Siheky bike race, duplicated Diyco's feat in the women's open, but the shy 12-year-old enjoyed a good lead against the two other finishers.

She clocked in 1:23:50.09, more than four minutes ahead of runner-up Zairyra Marfega's time of 1:27:57.78, while Kimiko McKagan came in third after completing the race in 1:28:06.75.

Ferrer said she also stayed with a group of riders that included her dad, Bob, but pulled away as they made their way to Kensington Hotel.

Bob, Ferrer's dad, said he was not supposed to join the

race since he's still recovering from a minor operation. "I just decided to join the last minute to act as a guide since this is her first time to join in the



JON PEREZ

J.C. Ferrer, second left, and Zairyra Marfega, center, join organizers of the 50K Bike For Life. The 12-year-old Ferrer topped the race, while Marfega placed second and Kimiko McKagan (not in the photo) finished at third.

open division."

"That's why when I felt that she can handle the race, I told her to pull away and leave me behind since I won't push my-

self further because of a recent operation."

The younger Ferrer followed her dad's instructions and pulled away. "I decided

to take up cycling as a cross training for tennis to develop my stamina. I join my dad every week but I will still be playing tennis."

## NMISF certifies two more age group records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation recognized two more CNMI age group marks made by Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Ashley Dangol and John Tenorio during the NMISF Opening Meet held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Dangol clocked in at 1:14.43 in the girls 11 to 12's 100m backstroke, eclipsing by

more than two seconds the previous mark of former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Miku Tammy. Tammy's record read at 1:16.97 and was made on March 14, 2015.

With her new mark in the 100m backstroke, the 11-year-old Dangol now owns two records in her new age group. NMISF earlier recognized Dangol's 50m backstroke mark (34.37 seconds) along with the record (2:33.42) of

Nelson Batalloenes in the boys 13 to 14's 200m butterfly and the 5:32.02 Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki registered in the boys 11 to 12's 400m individual medley.

Tenorio's 1:14.43 was also the second fastest among the seven swimmers that completed the two-lap race. SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki got the best time in the 100m backstroke with his 1:12.69, while his younger brother Jinnosuke

was ranked third overall after submitting 1:14.95. Others who finished the race were Tsunami Saipan's Ayumi Obregon (1:33.37) and SSC's Jin Ju Thompson (1:26.27), Sophia Gauran (1:28.80) and Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (1:24.27).

In the 50m backstroke, Tenorio logged 31.31 seconds and was the fastest among the 19 swimmers who did the sprint event. His time surpassed the 31.98 seconds former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Kaito Yanai posted on March 21, 2014 in the boys 13 to 14 age group.

## TOP

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highlight the top seeded Peleliu's 15-hit game against Asahi.

James Fleming had a lead-off single for Peleliu, which used a seven-run first inning to surge ahead. He went 4-for-4 with a double and three runs.

Remeliik led things off for Peleliu in the second inning with his solo shot and scored two more runs on a Rush Kintaro RBI single and a Hideo RBI double at the bottom of the sixth. Hideo went 2-for-4 with a solo homer in the fourth to go with his two runs and two RBIs, while Kintaro had a double and two runs after going 2-for-3.

Toby Sebangiol homered for Asahi, while Mike Guerrero,

Allen Teliu, and Crosby Ngiraihelung scored a run apiece.

## Brotherhood 18, Sufa 7

Bill Camacho and Ben Hocog each belted two homers as Brotherhood peppered Sufa pitcher Tom Camacho with 22 hits.

Camacho went 3-for-4, hitting a two-run shot in the first, three-run homer in the second, and an RBI single in the fourth. He added three runs and six RBIs, while Hocog scored four runs, three RBIs, and two doubles after going 4-for-4.

Julian Camacho had a solo homer, while John Diaz, 3-for-4, blasted a two-run dinger in the third inning. John Terlaje and Joe Lizama each went 4-for-4, all singles, with the former scoring four times.

Ben Camacho led Sufa's losing cause with an RBI double in the second and three-run shot in the fourth.

## Momma Charu 22, Papa Bears 4

Peyton Sakuma had a grand slam in his second time at the plate in Momma Charu's 14-run second inning. He also registered four RBIs and hit a line drive in his first at bat in the second.

Ron Olopai also homered in the second inning and went 3-for-3 with a double, two runs, and three RBIs, while Leo Bobai hit 3-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs.

Momma Charu had 22 hits against Jojo Attao, who had a two-run homer in the first and a leadoff double in the fourth.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	2	0	1.000	—
Brooklyn	1	1	.500	1
Boston	1	2	.333	1 1/2
New York	0	2	.000	2
Philadelphia	0	3	.000	2 1/2

Southeast Division				
Washington	2	0	1.000	—
Orlando	2	1	.667	1 1/2
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1
Miami	1	1	.500	1
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1

Central Division				
Cleveland	2	1	.667	—
Detroit	2	1	.667	—
Milwaukee	2	1	.667	—
Indiana	1	2	.333	1
Chicago	0	2	.000	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Houston	3	0	1.000	—
Memphis	2	0	1.000	1/2
San Antonio	2	0	1.000	1/2
New Orleans	0	2	.000	2 1/2
Dallas	0	3	.000	3

Northwest Division				
Utah	2	1	.667	—
Portland	2	1	.667	—
Minnesota	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Denver	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	1	1	.500	1 1/2

Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	2	0	1.000	—
L.A. Lakers	1	1	.500	1
Golden State	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Sacramento	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Phoenix	0	3	.000	2 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## TANIA

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es, ruled the team event with an average time of 21:38.6.

Seisen International School of Japan was the second best overall squad at 22:27.6, while the International School of Sacred Heart was third at 23:17.2. Guam High School, one of the seven teams from the hosts, was the fourth best (23:25.6).

In the men's division, Kai-ping Wang and his Agape schoolmate Lue Xiong crossed the finish line together at 22:05.2 to place 76 out of 136 runners in the race ruled by Christian Academy of Japan's Takehiro Murai (17:41.7). Leonardo A'DeLima of St. Mary's International School had a time of 17:42.7 and ASIJ's Declan Falls touched the tape at 17:43 to complete

## SIS

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killer blows in the fourth canto to eliminate its foe.

Dylan Mister started the final period with a fastbreak layup off a steal, while Andy Kim and Jabez Sebastian added two more baskets for the Geckos to put the game away and join Mt. Carmel School

and defending champion Agape Christian School to the semifinals.

The Knights and Torchbearers gained automatic semis tickets after placing in the Top 2 in the regular season of the seven-team competition. Mt. Carmel earned a 10-1 record in the double-round robin elimination and had one rained-out game, which it did not play as

it had no bearing to the rankings. Agape, which handed Mt. Carmel its lone loss in the regular season, posted an 8-2 slate with two rained-out matches.

SIS and MBA, on the other hand, had to play in the quarterfinals after finishing at No. 4 and 5, respectively, in the team standings. SIS had an even 4-4 slate with four

rained-out matches, while MBA held a 4-5 card with three rained-out games.

# NMISF Opening Meet

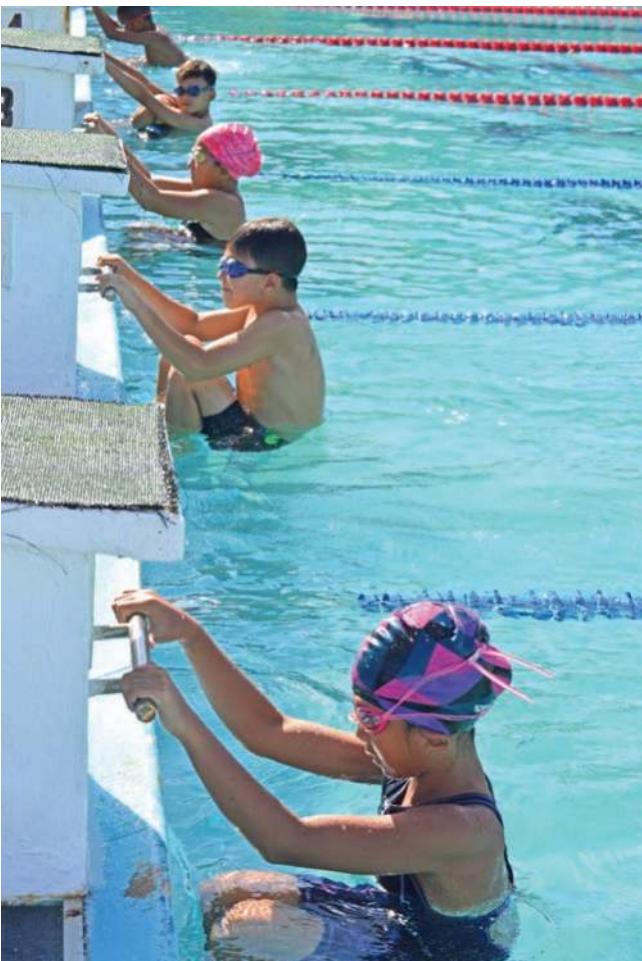
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Two swimmers compete in the 50m backstroke event during the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Opening Meet held last Oct. 7 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Aika Watanabe races in the 50m backstroke event.



Saipan Swim Club's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero does the breaststroke part of the 200m individual medley race.



Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thomson swims in the 800m freestyle race.



A young swimmer competes in the 100m breaststroke event.



Two Dolphin Club Saipan swimmers plunge into the pool for the 100m freestyle race.



Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones does the 200m butterfly event.



**Astros beat  
Yankees to  
book World  
Series trip**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Grizzlies build  
big lead, hang  
on to top  
Warriors**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# SIS reaches semifinals

## Top seeds make Final Four

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

 The Top 3 seeds in the 2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League marched into the semifinal round after dispatching their respective foes yesterday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Peleliu advanced after routing Asahi, while Brotherhood and Momma Charu also eased their way into the Final Four following victories against Sufa and Papa Bears. The fourth playoff game between the fourth-seeded Karui and No. 5 S.A. Masters was halted in the third inning due to rain. The winner will face pennant champion Peleliu in the semis this Sunday, while No. 2 Brotherhood and third-ranked Momma Charu will slug it out in the other Final Four pairing. The winners of this weekend's semifinal matches will face off in the best-of-three finals series, which is set to start on Nov. 5.

### Peleliu 15, Asahi 4

Dominic Hideo and Dominic Remeliik had a home run each to

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JON PEREZ  
Mitch Aaron, seen here heading home during a regular season game, and Sufa can't match up with Brotherhood, allowing the latter to advance to the semifinals of the 2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League yesterday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**S**aipan International School barged into the semifinal round of the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League after beating Marianas Baptist Academy, 25-12, in their playoff game last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

 The Geckos showed better skills and proper positioning in the paint to get point-blanked baskets en route to the 13-point winning margin.

Three straight field goals from Rintaro Miyawaki inside turned an SIS' 3-point lead, 11-8, to a 17-8 advantage, down to the last minute and change of the third period.

A long jumper from Jasper Perez ended MBA's long silence and gave the team its first basket in the second half. However, that was not enough to spark MBA's rally, while SIS delivered the

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By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

 Tania Tan became the top finisher for Team Marianas in the 2017 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships held over the weekend at the John F. Kennedy High School in Tamuning, Guam.

Tan, a junior at Saipan International School, was the 23rd runner to cross the finish line in the women's 5-kilometer race that was topped by participants from the American School in Japan with ninth-grader Saga Wihman besting her teammates

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Team Marianas members pose for a group photo after completing the 5-kilometer race in the 2017 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships held last weekend at the John F. Kennedy High School in Tamuning, Guam.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Saipan International School's Max Church, center, is sandwiched by two Marianas Baptist Academy defenders during the second quarter of their playoff game in the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Tania is NMI's top finisher



and 98 others.

Tan registered a time of 23:18.4, which was 40 seconds better from the 24:01 she posted in the second leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics' 2017 All Schools Cross Country 2 held last Oct. 7 at the Airport Road.

Agape Christian School's Ella Zhang finished 35th (24:48.40), while Malika Miyawaki of SIS came in 40th (25:29.6). Min Yu (28:58.6) and Tianbo Zhang, who came in at 76th and 83rd places, respectively (29:36.8), were the other members of the CNMI girls squad that ended up eighth overall in the team event.

Wihman recorded the fastest time in the division with her 20:45 to lead the 1-2-3 finish for ASIJ, as Marina Ten Have (21:00.4) and Emma Wingfield-Hayes (21:03) joined her in the podium. ASIJ, which also had runners finishing 10th and 14th plac-

**See TANIA on Page 26**